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Local Government Service

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BURDEN OF MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURE

ANALYSING THE COST OF RATE FUND SERVICES: THE GRANT FACTOR A KEY TO LOCAL FINANCE

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OF recent years it has become a matter of frequent complaint that the expenditure of Local Authorities is excessive, and weighs unduly on the ratepayer. The approach of the end of the financial year is an opportune moment to consider just how much is spent, how the money is raised, and what is the value of the expenditure to the community.

In the year 1929-30, Local Authorities spent £311,761,000 on "Rate Fund Services," that is, on all the services administered by them except trading undertakings and certain special funds. This sum was raised in the following manner:—

Rates	£156,312,000
Grants (Derating) ..	13,484,000
Grants (Other) ..	93,980,000
Transfers from trading Undertakings..	1,894,000
Fees, rents, etc. ..	47,502,000

£313,172,000

A very large sum indeed. But if it is analysed, we find that the cost per head of local government per annum is £7 16s., or about 13s. per family per week. For this the nation is educated, crime is held in check, infectious disease is suppressed, roads provided, and the interests of the community in general watched over. Some of the services, indeed, though they may be of exceeding importance, only involve an insignificant cost. Town planning, for instance, represents but 0.03 per cent. of the local budget, though if properly carried out it may add considerably to the amenities of life, and at the same time diminish the cost of living.

The Family Basis

If the cost of the services themselves is analysed, results can be obtained which will no doubt be a source of surprise to many. Thus, though we find that Elementary Education costs the huge sum of £63,335,000, the sum itself represents but £6 17s. 6d. per family per annum, certainly a very moderate charge considering the benefits received.

Perhaps this is seen most clearly in the matter of sewerage and sewage disposal,

which, costing £9,454,000 per annum in the aggregate, secures to each family the first essentials of a healthy environment at the very small charge of 20s. 6d. per annum. Most families, again, would be willing to pay a considerable sum to be rid of their household refuse (or would, if they could not afford it, throw it into the streets, to the detriment of public health!), but this service is performed for them by the sanitary authorities at a

£48,470,000, or 24s. 3d. per individual per annum. The benefit of street lighting is obvious, and it is a fact that every citizen should be thankful for that he enjoys it at the cost of but 2s. 1d. per annum.

A Mistaken View

Some people are accustomed to speak as if the money spent on local government were annually flung into the sea, with nothing permanent to show for it. We all know that to be a very mistaken view, for we find that, besides those capital assets which cannot be measured, such as the public health services, or the mental training for which we have to thank the education authorities, the actual physical assets created by Local Authorities in 1924 (not an abnormal year), such as houses, roads, schools, halls, sewers, drainage works, and tramways, were valued at £58,068,000. Some may object to the building of houses and town halls by municipalities, and prefer silk stocking factories and cinemas, but that, after all, is a matter for the local government elector to settle.

It must, furthermore, be noticed that a great deal of local expenditure, besides providing the interest charges and sinking funds in respect of constructional work supports a large section of the population directly, even though money expended on wages or maintenance charges may vanish every year without leaving any traces behind it. In a city such as Manchester we find that about a tenth of the population lives on salaries and wages provided by the City Council, whilst if inmates of institutions and those in receipt of poor relief were included in the reckoning, the percentage would be much larger. Widespread poverty is therefore likely to result from the undue cutting down of the municipal budget.

The nation spends on drink and tobacco some £318,763,000 every year, and on local government some £311,761,000. So far as the man-in-the-street is concerned, therefore, the real burden of local government should be

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MR. T. S. SIMEY, B.A.,
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cost of 14s. 4d. per family per annum, and it is hoped that even this figure may be substantially reduced. As an outstanding instance of the results of municipal enterprise, and the benefits derived by families from it, we find that in Liverpool pure filtered water is transported 68 miles from the Welsh hills, and is delivered at any floor in the city at a price that works out at the absurdly low figure of three halfpence a ton!

Examples of this kind could be multiplied indefinitely.

To take another type of service, where the individual and not the family is the proper unit of measurement, we find that highways and bridges, without which civilised life would be impossible, cost

ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS & SALARIES

Circular 1,311 to Local Authorities: Minister on the Ray Report

IN Circular 1,311, addressed to local authorities, the Minister of Health, Sir E. Hilton Young, offers guidance with regard to the proposals made in the Report of the Committee on Local Expenditure. The Circular deals only with those local services considered by the Committee which are the concern of the Minister—that is, housing, public assistance, public health, general organisation and financial administration, together with miscellaneous local services. It will occasion no surprise that Sir Hilton Young confirms some of the recommendations, and recommends them to the attention of local authorities. On the other hand, he dissents from others as too restrictive on essential services or for other reasons.

Salaries and Service Conditions

On such questions as officers' salaries and conditions of employment which, of course, claim the attention of every local government officer, the Minister emphasises that, in regard to the generality of local officers, the salaries and conditions of employment are, with a few exceptions in the health and public assistance services, the sole concern of the local authorities themselves and the Minister has no definite responsibility. The matter is, however, of such importance to the well-being and progress of local government that he cannot but take a deep interest in it and he would wish to offer certain observations for the careful consideration of local authorities.

The circular letter of September 11, 1931, among other things directed the attention of local authorities to the propriety of conforming to the action of the central government in the matter of temporary reductions in the emoluments of officials and urged the desirability of local consultation with the officials on the subject. There has in practice been very great disparity in the way in which this matter has been dealt with by authorities.

Uniformity Desirable

In some cases no reductions appear to have been made at all, and in other cases the reductions have been made on very different lines. This situation seems to the Minister calculated to give rise to dissatisfaction and even discontent among the officials. He thinks that in the action which local authorities take on this part of the Report of the Committee on Local Expenditure, it is eminently desirable that the fullest possible use should be made of the method of consultation with the officials commended in the circular of September 11, whether locally or, as is even more desirable, to attain some measure of uniformity of action, centrally, as, for example, by the use of the central associ-

ations of local authorities, or some special committee of those associations, to confer with central organisations of the local officials.

Fair Examination

In paragraph 237 the Report makes some suggestions which appear to the Minister of great value. Numbers of staff should certainly be re-examined in the light of present requirements and, the Minister would add, the possibility of reduction of numbers by better organisation and improved methods of working should be carefully explored. The salary scales, particularly of the higher officers, are recommended by the Committee for review. Essential factors in such a review are how salaries compare with those paid for similar duties in comparable places (there is very great lack of uniformity in these matters), what increase has been made since 1914, how the question of the increased cost of living has been dealt with, and what reduction has been made in recent years.

In regard to some classes of officers it appears to the Minister eminently desirable to consider the propriety, either on the occurrence of a vacancy, or possibly by agreement, of instituting the practice of a fixed salary to cover all work to be performed by the officer. Generally, the Minister would desire to impress on local authorities that what is needed is not ill-considered and all-round reduction of salaries, which, in some of the lower grades, often do not compare favourably with what is paid in other public service or outside, but a cautious and fair examination of the work to be done and the remuneration reasonable for that work in present conditions. If the matter is handled by authorities in this spirit, the Minister is confident that local officials, whether salaried or wage earners, will be found ready, in the future as they have been in the past, to respond to the needs of the time.

Salary Scales and Standards

As regards the salary scales for registrars, it is, the Minister points out, the fact that they were settled as recently as 1929 in careful correspondence with the general level of local government officers' salaries then prevailing, which seemed to be the proper standard. The Minister is not aware of any general change in that standard, though temporary reductions of salary were made in 1931-2. Objection is not made to such temporary reductions in the case of registrars. On the question of discretion as to salaries for local authorities there are exceptional features about the work of registrars. The work is identical and the central authority takes responsibility of it and cannot but aim at securing a reasonable

(Continued at foot of Col. 3.)

BURDEN OF MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURE

(Continued from preceding page)

less than that represented by drink and tobacco. Unhappily, however, the fact that the rate is an inequitable tax makes local government bear more heavily on the poorer classes. The same also applies as between one locality and another. A depressed area such as Merseyside has now to support out of the rates an ever-increasing number of persons rendered destitute by the trade depression, whilst other areas, non-industrial or with sheltered industries, only suffer a small loss resulting from the operation of the unemployment factor in the calculation of the Derating Grant.

The Grant Factor

The key to local finance, therefore, lies in the grant. Assistance to depressed areas must be given by the Central Government, and, in the future, further assistance must be given to all Local Authorities for the financing of developments. Those who criticise most the burden of municipal expenditure are often the same people who bewail the fact that the health of the population is shockingly bad. Yet it is the Maternity and Child Welfare Service which has recently given them much cause for complaint, as the expenditure on this service increased in the three years preceding 1930 by about 10 per cent. It is perhaps more vital to the health of the population than any other, and it cost in the year 1929-30 £2,402,000, or 5s. 3d. per family.

Expansion will certainly not come without the assistance of the Central Government, however desirable it may be for a service to be provided that will look after the child from birth to the age of school attendance. Can it, therefore, be seriously asserted that we have reached saturation-point in municipal expenditure, or that the real value received for every pound spent by Local Authorities does not vastly outweigh that represented by a like outlay on the part of the individual citizen?

(Continued from Col. 2)

uniform standard of competence. The present provisions were framed after long protests from the staff, based largely on disparities which could not be defended, and the scale admits of some measure of flexibility. In the circumstances, the Minister does not think that any change is requisite.

The Circular concludes with an expression of the Government's sense of the importance of the contribution which local authorities make towards the national well-being, and confidence that local government will, in the future, as in the past, deal successfully with the problems set to it.

THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

APPROVAL OF CONFERENCE AGENDA AND REPORT: NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS: PROGRESS OF THE ASSOCIATION'S ACTIVITIES: PROCEEDINGS OF THE MARCH MEETING

THE Executive Council of the National Association of Local Government Officers, meeting for the last time before the Whitsun Conference—to be held this year at Folkestone—received and approved the draft report for submission at that assembly. Mr. F. J. Willett, chairman of the Council, presided.

There were also present: H. Allen, A. G. M. Archibald, W. W. Armitage, W. G. Auger, J. T. Baker, H. Begg, A. G. Bolton, C. G. Brown, J. Chaston, G. W. Coster, F. R. Finch, Mrs. G. Franks, T. Freeman, J. E. Gee, V. Grainger, F. W. Greenhalgh, D. L. Griffiths, P. H. Harrold, A. M. Imrie, G. Llewellyn, W. E. Lloyd, S. Lord, M. O. McAuliffe, J. Moss, A. D. Ogden, A. Pinches, C. A. W. Roberts, J. W. Singleton, G. A. Stone, A. Webb, W. H. Whinnerah, J. W. Wilkinson, F. J. Willett, Dr. A. Witherspoon.

Under the Association's constitution, the nominations for honorary officers which were before the Council at its January meeting came up at this meeting for formal adoption. These were as follows: President, Mr. C. G. Brown, LL.B., Town Clerk, Cardiff; vice-presidents, Sir Tom Percival, Clerk to the Central Northumberland Assessment Committee, and Dr. A. Witherspoon, Medical Officer of Health, Stoke-on-Trent; trustees, Mr. S. Lord, Borough Treasurer, Acton; Mr. W. H. Whinnerah, Secretary, Highways Department, Manchester; and Mr. Hugh Begg, County Veterinary Inspector, Lanarkshire C.C.; honorary treasurer, Mr. W. E. Lloyd, Borough Treasurer, Hampstead; honorary solicitors, Mr. P. H. Harrold, Town Clerk, Hampstead (England); Mr. D. J. Parry, Solicitor to the Glamorgan C.C. (Wales); Mr. G. S. Fraser, M.A., Town Clerk, Aberdeen (Scotland).

Report on Local Expenditure

A report received from the Emergency Sub-Committee intimated that a deputation had been afforded the opportunity of putting the observations of the Association on the Report of the Committee on Local Expenditure (England and Wales) before the Ministry of Health, on whose behalf Sir Arthur Robinson had intimated that most careful consideration would be afforded the memorandum, together with the views expressed by the deputation. In the event of the Ministry deciding to send a circular to local authorities, the deputation was informed, it would do no more than draw attention to the recommendations contained in the report. (*This circular has since been issued. See opposite page.*)

Reference to the recent death of Mr. F. Marsden during his presidential year, occasioned a suggestion by Mr. W. W. Armitage that the Association should

place on permanent record its appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. Marsden to N.A.L.G.O. In view of the late president's keen interest in the Association's educational work, Mr. Armitage thought the establishment of a "Marsden" Scholarship would be the most fitting tribute that

could be paid to his memory. It was accordingly agreed to designate the Association's Municipal Engineering Scholarship as "The Marsden" Scholarship.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. S. Lord and Mr. F. J. Willett for their services in the chair during the past year.

LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY

THE Law and Parliamentary Committee reported on the number of cases of legal assistance to members which had been dealt with since the last meeting of the Committee. On two of these, counsel's opinion had been obtained, and authority had been given for counsel's opinion to be taken on a third.

It had, it was stated, been decided to ask the Society of Town Clerks to join with the Association in sending a deputation to the Inland Revenue to make representations in regard to the assessment of Town Clerks to income tax on the actual remuneration for the year of assessment in cases where a Deputy Town Clerk had been appointed to the office of Town Clerk during that year, or in the previous assessment year.

An opinion had been obtained from a Scottish counsel on the question whether officers awarded compensation under the Rating (Scotland) Act, 1926, were entitled to continue to receive payment of the compensation if their salaries were now greater than in 1926, that question having arisen in an acute form in the County of Roxburgh. The opinion would be considered by the Scottish District Committee at an early meeting.

Since the last meeting of the Committee the following cases had been dealt with at Headquarters:—

Compensation for loss of office or emoluments, 8. Conditions of service of transferred officers, 1. Superannuation, 18. General legal questions, 16.

The Committee expressed its appreciation of the services rendered by the chairman (Mr. C. G. Brown), the vice-chairman (Mr. D. L. Griffiths), and the honorary solicitor for England (Mr. P. H. Harrold) for their services during the past year.

On consideration of the report by the Council, attention was called to the fact that a certain Local Authority had adopted the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, only for its officers who had not attained the age of 50, officers who had attained that age being excluded from the operation of the superannuation scheme, whilst another Authority which had adopted the Act two years ago had not, since the date of adoption, made any designation of posts. It was decided to send a deputation to the Ministry of Health with a view to representations being made with regard to these two superannuation cases, and the President, the Chairman of the Committee, the Honorary Solicitor for England, and Mr. Coster were appointed to be the members of the deputation.

The report, as submitted, was then adopted.

EDUCATION

THE Association had, the Education Committee reported, been asked to conduct a service examination on behalf of the East Ham C.B.C., in respect of a vacancy for an Investigating Officer. Four candidates sat, but none was successful. Under the Committee's scheme of grants to universities in respect of courses for the Diploma of Public Administration, a grant of £50 had been forwarded to the University of Liverpool, and a grant of £20 to the University of Glasgow. In the case of the former, it was understood that the money would be devoted entirely to the work of research. It had been decided to make grants also to the Universities of Leeds, London, Manchester, and Sheffield. Arrangements were in hand for the holding of a propaganda meeting jointly by the Leeds Municipal Officers Guild and the Post Office Workers with a view to stimulating interest in the Courses at the Leeds

University. The Local Group of the Institute of Public Administration had been invited to co-operate in a joint meeting.

Further consideration had been promised by the authorities to a suggestion of the Committee that the Diploma in Public Administration at the London School of Economics should be raised to the status of a Degree. The arrangements for the English and Scottish Summer Schools, at Oxford and St. Andrews, were laid before the N.E.C. (See page 97.) During the month of January, sixty-three enrolments had been received for courses arranged by the N.A.L.G.O. Correspondence Institute.

The Committee had accorded its appreciation of the services of Mr. J. Chaston and Mr. C. A. W. Roberts, Chairman and Vice-chairman, respectively, for their services during the year.

FINANCE

AT the meeting of the Finance Committee, a report of which was submitted to, and approved by, the Council, Mr. G. A. Stone, the new member of the Council, elected to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. G. C. V. Cant, had, it was noted, taken his appointed place on the Committee. The provision of a subsistence allowance to delegates (one from each branch) representing branches with a membership of twenty or less was considered, and it was resolved to ask the N.E.C. to approve a contribution of 15s. a day, for a period not exceeding four days, towards the subsistence allowance of one delegate from each such branch. Such other applications for allowances as may be received will be referred to the chairman of the committee

and the general secretary for consideration and decision.

The committee reported having given consideration to a request from the divisional organising secretaries for a revision of their title. Having regard to the secretarial and administrative nature of their work as distinct from organisation, it was felt that the title "Divisional Secretary" would be likely to enhance their status with the Council before whom they had to appear on their members' behalf. The revision of title was approved by the Committee and recommended to the N.E.C. for confirmation.

The thanks of the committee had been tendered to Mr. F. J. Willett and Mr. A. Pinches, the chairman and vice-chairman respectively, for their conduct of the committee's proceedings.

SERVICE CONDITIONS AND ORGANISATION

THE Service Conditions and Organisation Committee, in the report of its proceedings, held on March 4, alluded to the question of a draft national scale of salaries and conditions of service for administrative, technical, professional, and clerical staffs. The majority of the district committees, it was reported, still had the revised draft scales under consideration. During a period of seven weeks, new branches had been formed at Barnoldswick (Yorkshire District)—commencing membership 14; Spenborough, (Yorkshire District)—commencing membership 69; and Ulverston and District (North-Western District)—commencing membership 40. For some time past very little interest had been evinced in the affairs of the Association at Dewsbury,

but a local Committee of six had been appointed to re-form the Branch, and it was anticipated that this would soon be functioning normally. The number of subscribing branches for 1932 was 513, as compared with 496 for 1931.

The Association's subscribing membership was 68,447 as compared with 64,672 for the preceding year, an increase of 3,775 and at January 31, 1933, the membership reached 69,790, as compared with 65,944 in the preceding year.

The thanks of the Committee had, it was stated, been accorded to Mr. J. W. Wilkinson and Mr. W. W. Armitage, the chairman and vice-chairman respectively, for their conduct of the Committee's proceedings. The report, as submitted, was adopted by the Council.

PUBLICATIONS AND RECREATIONS

MR. J. W. SINGLETON, Chairman, presented a report of the proceedings of this Committee, held on March 3, at which the Cayton Bay Camp Sub-Committee reported on a number of matters affecting the acquisition and future administration of the new Camp, including the decision to appoint Mr. and Mrs. Kitchen from among 300 applicants, as Manager and Manageress. Tenders had been let for the ground and drainage work, and for the erection of the buildings. The Committee had given consideration to the question of the N.A.L.G.O. Diary, the aim being to produce an attractive diary at the cost to members of 1s. as against 1s. 6d. charged for the present

diary. Four leading diary manufacturers had been approached, and the tender of Messrs T. J. and J. Smith, Ltd., for a diary, similar for size, format and colour, but bound in Morocco Grained Persian Leather with one tight leather pocket at front or end instead of the present leather pocket with stamp pockets at front and tight pocket at end.

Bookings for the Camps and Cruises were, the Committee reported, highly satisfactory.

Mr. J. W. Singleton, Chairman, and Mr. W. G. Auger, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, were accorded the best thanks of the Committee for their service during the year.

BUILDING SOCIETY

THE satisfactory progress of the Building Society was considered at the meeting of the Committee of Management held on March 3. It was reported that loans totalling £161,933 had been authorized and 200 advances amounting to £126,360 actually made. Having considered a letter from a Branch inquiring whether the Society was prepared to accept branch funds for investment in shares, the Committee decided to inform the branch that such investment could be accepted as a deposit only, on which the rate of interest would be 3½ per cent. *tax free*. Further consideration had been given to the provision to members of 100 per cent loans to applicants who, though in permanent and pensionable employment, were unable to raise the deposit necessary for house purchase. The sub-committee's recommendation to adopt a scheme on these lines was approved. No provision could be made for an advance to a member for the purpose of enabling him to carry out repairs to his property, but the Society was prepared to consider an application for an advance on a property, the Deeds of which were unencumbered, and so enable the applicant to effect the repairs to his property.

The thanks of the Committee had been accorded to Mr. W. G. Auger and Mr. T. Freeman, chairman and vice-chairman of the Committee, for their services during the initial year of the Society.

The report of the Committee of Management was approved.

BENEVOLENT AND ORPHAN FUND

THE Benevolent and Orphan Fund Committee of Management reported that it had decided to allocate to orphanages, hospitals, sanatoria, etc., a sum of £2,270 10s. from the sum credited to the Fund for the sale of *Help Yourself* Annuals during 1932. Further, it had been decided to supply score cards free to branches running whist drives on behalf of the Fund.

Certain amendments had, it was stated, been made in the conditions relating to entries for the Amateur Photographic Competition in order to meet the requests of members. The closing date for entries for the 1933 Competition had been extended to October 31 to enable those members who had to take their holidays late in the year to participate in the competition. It was further reported that a special committee had been set up to explore the desirability for the establishment of a Convalescent home on the south coast. Mr. H. S. Newton, the chairman, and Mr. M. O. McAuliffe, vice-chairman, had been tendered the thanks of the Committee for their services during the past year.

The report, as submitted, was adopted.

(Continued on page 95)

FOLKESTONE — A MUNICIPAL ENTITY

A Survey of Post-War Development in N.A.L.G.O.'s Conference Town



Mr. C. F. NICHOLSON
Town Clerk and Clerk of the Peace,
Folkestone

ALL too inadequate tribute was paid in our last issue to the æsthetic characteristics of Folkestone—N.A.L.G.O.'s Conference Town. To those who think we might have done greater justice to "The Queen of the South," we would say that our brief sketch was intended only as an introduction to one of England's most popular holiday resorts. In this present article we shall review, for the benefit, primarily, of delegates to Conference, the achievements of Folkestone in local government, and subsequently it will be our pleasure to describe something of the historical associations which link the past with the present.

A Proud Record

As a municipal entity, Folkestone bears an honourable record; a record, we might say with complete justification, equal to any town of similar size and area in the country. Towards the proud position which she holds to-day, Folkestone owes much to the wisdom and far-sightedness of her administrators, coupled with the efficiency and attached service of her permanent officials.

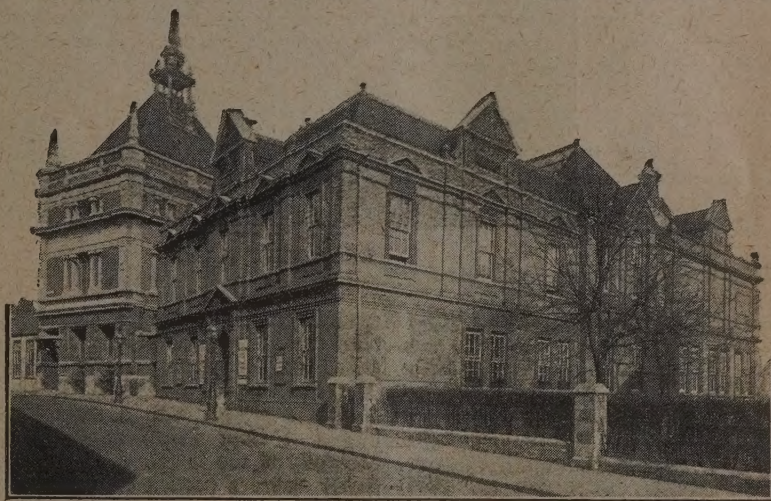
To enable us to gain a right perspective in viewing the accomplishments of the Borough we might here interpose a few statistics:

The population of the Borough is 35,753. Its debt on March 31 last was about £700,000, nearly one half of which is in respect of housing. The rateable value is about £390,000, and a penny rate produces slightly over £1,500. The present rates are 10s. in the £, and this figure is regarded as a very moderate rate burden, especially as assessments are not excessive. The Corporation is in a very strong financial position and there is good reason to hope that the present low rate poundage will be maintained, or not materially increased in the future.

The wealth of any seaside resort lies in the amenities it possesses. In this respect nature has been particularly bountiful to this Kent township. Supplementary to its natural charms, however, are the beauty of the flower beds, green lawns, wooded slopes and open spaces. The Folkestone Cricket Ground, as many will remember, is one of the finest in the country; a feature about it that often occasions remark being the beauty of its setting, and its clear uninterrupted light; it is quite open to the hills on the one side, and clear of all obstructive buildings on the others. The Leas Cliff Hall is a magnificent structure of

vide all children in the borough with a complete education on the lines advocated in the Hadow Report. The approximate number of children on the roll of the public elementary schools is 4,100, housed in four council schools, and six non-provided schools, with domestic subjects and manual instruction. There is an excellent school clinic open for use each day, which provides accommodation for medical examinations, dental and ophthalmic treatment, and treatment of minor ailments.

The council also controls the Harvey Grammar School, a modern secondary school for boys. This school had its



PUBLIC LIBRARY, MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY, FOLKESTONE

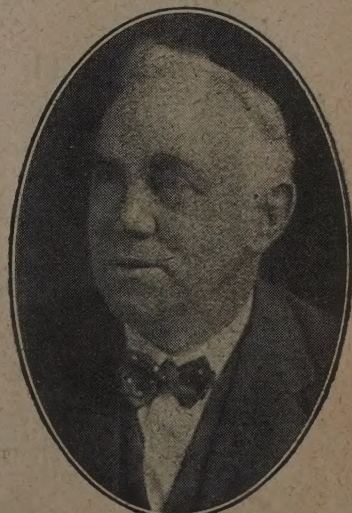
which the town is very proud. It was built in 1927 at a cost of £90,000. Perched on the brow of the steep slope from the Leas, it represents some interesting problems in engineering and architecture. The home of the municipal orchestra, and the centre of municipal entertainment, Leas Cliff Hall is a worthy monument to its civic enterprise. The hall does not, as was inadvertently stated in our last issue, possess a pipe organ. This, we understand, is the one thing required to complete a scheme which has already cost well over £90,000. The Corporation had previously opened in 1926 the Marine Gardens Pavilion—a fine hall seating some 1,700 persons, and adapted to rather different kinds of entertainment from those of the Leas Cliff Hall.

The need for an up-to-date bathing pool is keenly felt, and the town is now facing the question of providing this additional amenity.

Educational Reorganisation

Folkestone is on the eve of a great educational re-organisation, providing for large building operations at a cost of something like £66,000, which will pro-

origin in 1674 through the bounty of members of the Harvey family; the family which included Dr. William Harvey who is celebrated for the discovery of the circulation of the blood; he was born in Folkestone in 1578. The



Mr. W. H. ROUTLEY
Borough Treasurer, Folkestone

foundation was unable, through financial straits, to carry on the school. The municipal corporation took over the trust in 1904, and in 1913 a new school was built; these premises were enlarged in 1928, and the school now has a roll of approximately 440, and is completely up to date, including a modern metalwork shop amongst its usual departments.

The Public Libraries and Museums Act was adopted in 1878. The present fine building arose in 1888. Considerable extensions were made in 1910 with the aid of a Carnegie grant, and a scheme for the further extension of the Central Library will be carried out during the present year. There is a branch library at Morehall. There are 28,000 volumes in stock, and the number of issues to borrowers during the last report year was 303,840. Twenty-seven per cent. of the population are registered borrowers—an unusually high percentage.

Folkestone is one of the five ports on the south coast which are registered for the passage of aliens, the others being Plymouth, Southampton, Newhaven, and Dover. During 1931, 224,643 British, and 52,838 alien cross-channel passengers passed through the port, all of these being under the surveillance of the health and sanitary officers of the Corporation. Also the sanitary inspectors are Port Sanitary Inspectors, and officers under the Imported Food Regulations for the examination of foodstuffs entering the port. There are 40,000 tons of such imports annually. The inspectors have authority under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act.

Folkestone's housing problem cannot rightly be called acute. A scheme is under consideration for the clearance of property adjacent to the harbour under the Housing Act, 1930. With this exception, Folkestone has no area of condemned properties, neither has it a large slum content. Nearly 500 houses have been built by the Corporation since the war, and a further 32 are in hand. As early as 1899 "artisans' dwellings" were built, and the estate is now a desirable asset.

As relief work to alleviate distress



LEAS CLIFF HALL

caused by unemployment, sections of three main roads have been widened since 1922 at a cost of approximately £60,000. The drainage of Folkestone is on the combined system with a main Outfall Sewer at Copt Point, at the eastern extremity of the town. A small Outfall Sewer serves a portion of the west end of the Borough, and a scheme is in course of preparation for combining this with one used by the Sandgate U.D.C., the new Outfall Sewer reaching into deeper water and all sewage being disintegrated before discharge. The provision of a public abattoir has been under consideration for some time, but the matter has been deferred until after the settlement of the borough extensions scheme.

Future Expansion

Folkestone, like many other places, awaits a propitious tide for the launching of further schemes of development. A thing which will largely influence the future of the town is the extension of the boundaries. This extension is part of a scheme for the re-adjustment of areas all over the county of Kent under section 46 of the Local Government Act, 1929.

The County Council has adopted proposals arrived at after consultation between the main authorities concerned, i.e., Folkestone, Cheriton, and Sandgate, and the Minister's sanction is now awaited. Folkestone will extend mainly westwards, increasing its area from 2,325 to 4,090 acres, and its population from 35 to 46 thousands.

FOLKESTONE CONFERENCE,

1933

DAILY PROGRAMME

FRIDAY, JUNE 2

- 10 a.m.—Annual Golf Competition, Folkestone Golf Course, Radnor Park.
- 10 a.m.—Annual Tennis Tournament, Sports Ground, Cheriton Road.
- 10 a.m.—Annual Bowls Tournament, Folkestone Bowls Club, Cheriton Road.
- 4.30 p.m.—Provident Society, Annual General Meeting, Town Hall.
- 6.30 p.m.—Building Society, Annual General Meeting, Town Hall.
- 8.30 p.m.—Reception by His Worship the Mayor, Leas Cliff Hall.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

- 9.30 a.m.—Opening of Conference and Official Welcome, Marine Gardens Pavilion.
- 12.35 p.m.—Conference Photograph, Royal Pavilion Hotel grounds.
- 12.50 p.m.—Luncheon to National Executive Council, Royal Pavilion Hotel.
- 2.30 p.m.—Conference Session, Marine Gardens Pavilion.
- 4.30 p.m.—Logonia, Annual General Meeting, Marine Gardens Pavilion.
- 6.30 p.m.—Tour No. 1, East Kent Country, assemble Marine Gardens Pavilion.
- 8.15 p.m.—Variety Concert, Leas Cliff Hall.

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

- 10 a.m.—Divine Service, assemble Town Hall.
- 10.30 a.m.—Divine Service, Parish Church.
- 2 p.m.—Tour No. 2, Canterbury (direct), assemble Marine Gardens Pavilion.
- 2.15 p.m.—Tour No. 2a, Canterbury (circular), assemble Marine Gardens Pavilion.
- 2.15 p.m.—Tour No. 3, Deal, assemble Marine Gardens Pavilion.
- 8.15 p.m.—Orchestral Concert, Leas Cliff Hall.

MONDAY, JUNE 5

- 9.30 a.m.—Conference Session, Marine Gardens Pavilion.
- 12.45 p.m.—Luncheon to His Worship the Mayor and Members of Conference Council, Royal Pavilion Hotel.
- 2.30 p.m.—Conference Session, Marine Gardens Pavilion, followed by Meeting of National Executive Council, Royal Pavilion Hotel.
- National Executive Council meeting at Royal Pavilion Hotel at conclusion of Conference.
- 8.30 p.m.—Conference Dance, Leas Cliff Hall.

TUESDAY, JUNE 6

- 9.30 a.m.—Tour No. 4, "Weald of Kent," assemble Marine Gardens Pavilion.
- 10.15 a.m.—Tour No. 5, Boulogne-sur-Mer, assemble Harbour Pier.

CONFERENCE TRAVELLING

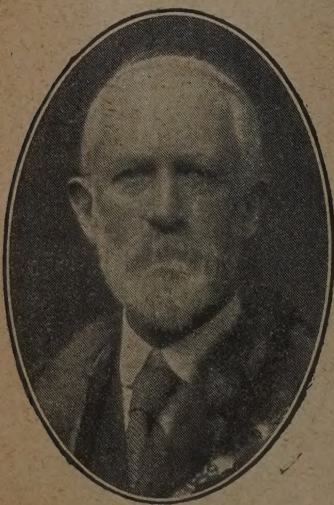
EXTENSION OF AVAILABILITY OF TICKETS

An application has been made to, and approved by, the Railway Clearing House for an extension of the period during which the special travelling facilities in connection with the Annual Conference at Folkestone will be available.

Will delegates please note that this concession will commence on May 31 and cease on June 17, 1933.

CHOOSE YOUR HOUSE—

The N.A.L.G.O. Building Society will enable you to buy it. Up to 90 per cent. can be borrowed at 5 per cent. repayable over 20 years. The monthly repayments will not exceed an average rental. Buy a house for yourself and not for someone else. Property, especially if you live in it, is the best possible investment. Prices cannot get lower than they are to-day and now is the time to buy. The Society has authorised advances exceeding £220,000 since it was established in July, 1932. Immediate attention is given to all inquiries and advances are made with the minimum of delay. Write to Headquarters for particulars.



ALDERMAN J. W. STAINER, J.P.
Mayor of Folkestone

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

POOR LAW TRANSFERRED OFFICERS

(Continued from page 92)

THE Poor Law Transferred Officers' Committee reported that a letter had been sent to the Ministry of Labour urging that Department to communicate with the Durham Public Assistance Committee, and any other Public Assistance Committees where no application had been made to the Ministry for a grant for the purpose of remunerating the staffs of the Public Assistance Department who had been called upon to do a considerable amount of overtime work in connection with transitional payments under the Unemployment Insurance Scheme, particularly in view of the fact that the Minister had intimated that he was prepared to make a grant to cover reasonable remuneration in proper cases. The Ministry replied:—

I am directed by the Ministry of Labour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th February . . . In reply, I am to say that these officers are the servants of their respective Authorities. Questions affecting their remuneration are entirely within the discretion of the Authorities and the Minister is accordingly not prepared to intervene in the manner suggested in your letter. I am to add that the Minister has no reason to suppose that Authorities are not fully aware of the Minister's powers to approve for reimbursement additional expenses incurred by them in administering the provisions of the Order in Council of 7th October, 1931.

Monetary Recognition

Attention had been called to the fact that a question on the subject of the remuneration for additional duties performed by members of the staffs of Public Assistance Departments in connection with transitional payments under the unemployment scheme was to be asked in the House of Commons at an early date, and it was resolved that on this question being answered, the position in the County of Durham be further explored.

The Sub-Committee appointed to revise the draft scales of salaries and conditions of service of institutional and nursing staffs, in the light of the observations thereon received from the District Committees, had not quite completed its task. Authority had been given to the Sub-Committee to send its report on completion to the District Committees for their observations.

On behalf of two members, superannuation appeals had been made to the Minister of Health under Section 18 of the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896, as a result of which the superannuation allowance had, in each case, been substantially increased.

The thanks of the Committee had been expressed to the Chairman (Mr. G. W. Coster) and the Vice-Chairman (Mr. F. W. Greenhalgh) for their services during the past year. The report, as submitted, was adopted.

THE SAYINGS OF DR. JOHNSON

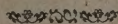


No. 1.

“HELL IS
PAVED WITH
GOOD
INTENTIONS”

If you INTEND to take out a Life Policy “Some Day,” act quickly. Delay may prove expensive. Don't run the risk of having to say “Oh! why didn't I take out that Life Policy last year? Since that attack of ‘Flu,’ with its complications, I cannot obtain a Policy except at a heavily ‘Rated-up’ Premium. For a £500 Policy I have now to pay an Annual Premium of £16 1 9; last Year it would have been only £14 12 6.”

DON'T HELP TO PAVE THE NETHER REGIONS!



PARTICULARS OF ALL FORMS OF LIFE ASSURANCE CAN BE
OBTAINED FROM YOUR LOCAL CORRESPONDENT OR
N.A.L.G.O., 24, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

NOTES FOR READERS



By JONAS PRAPS

WHILST the seasons have an influence upon the publication of books in bulk—Spring Announcements Lists are upon us—they have no noticeable effect upon their contents and topics. Else at this time of the year one might reasonably expect a glut of love stories and amorous poems leaving the type which make

"each particular hair to stand on end" and the heavier stodgy treatises to the more gloomy hours of winter. But this is not so.

For a little gentle irony and wit I commend to your notice a book which is in effect a Scotchman's estimate of English character as seen in various phases of social life—a week-end party, a cricket match and other sports, and in international politics. *England, their England*, by A. G. MacDonell (McM., 7s. 6d.) is in story form, and opens with the meeting of the Scotchman and an ex-editor at the Front. After the war "Donald" in his efforts towards a literary career meets some strange characters: one, for instance, whose journal subscription rate was two pounds twelve shillings per annum, "A subscription implies that this journal will be sent to the subscriber until one of the three expires." The book is pleasantly critical.

I am indebted to a colleague for his recommendation of *If the Blind Lead: a Realist Surveys Modern Culture*, by Alderton Pink (Benn, 8s. 6d.). In brief, his argument is that to make the most effective use of our best brains definite standards of the value of culture must be adopted, and the Universities develop in their curricula a directive purpose adequate to modern needs. Personally I am more interested in his manner than his matter. Would that our literary assessors might take to heart his strictures in the chapter on literary criticisms.

The Cambridge University Press have rendered a service to students of English literature which many will be grateful for in publishing Harvey Darton's *Children's Books in England* (15s.). In his definition the author makes it clear that he means "printed works produced ostensibly to give children spontaneous pleasure, and not primarily to teach them." The book is well illustrated and deals interestingly with a phase of social life hitherto almost neglected.

To many, Sir William Orpen is only an artist, but D. G. Konody and Sidney Dark have given us in *Sir William Orpen: Artist and Man* (Seeley, 25s.) something of the man as well as his art. It is an excellent study of both. Orpen's pessimism concerning life, influenced largely by his experiences as official war artist, were probably no deeper than those of thousands of others, but they weighed heavily upon his sensitive mind and clouded his later work.

Yes, another French Foreign Legion experience is recorded by ex-Sergeant A. R. Cooper in *The Man Who Liked Hell* (Jarrold, 12s. 6d.). The book bears witness to the excellent spirit which animates the men in the Legion, despite much that is brutal, and helps one to realise that in warfare with Arabs a callous unconcern for the future, if not an actual preference for the lower regions, is an essential characteristic.

In youthful days the circus ever has an attraction, the glamour of which never seems to fade. *Hold yer hosses!* (Lane, 12s. 6d.) is "Uncle" Bob Sherwood's account of his experiences with Barnum's circus. Apart from a rather too fulsome dose of sloppy sentimentality, the book is a good account of circus life and adventure.

BOOK REVIEWS

MUNICIPAL YEAR BOOK, 1933. Edited by Mr. James Forbes. Municipal Journal, Ltd. Price 25s.

THE *Municipal Year Book* goes from strength to strength. For many years it has been indispensable to anyone intimately concerned with Local Government and Public Administration, but it is not content to "rest on its laurels." Each new edition contains some additional feature, some improvement on earlier editions. The 1933 edition is particularly rich in this respect. It contains an admirably concise, yet thorough, review of salient features of the memorable year 1932, as affecting Local Government, in which are "writ large" the Local Expenditure Committees' Reports, and in which reference is also made to the proposed revision of the formula for Exchequer grants, the International Congress of Local Authorities, the Census Reports, Sunday Entertainments Bill, and the Report of the Committee on Ministers' Powers.

This edition has certain totally new and extended features. Not least among them is a directory of Local Government Officers which contains a complete list of the Clerks to Councils, Engineers and Surveyors, Medical Officers of Health and Chief Financial Officers, classified under the headings of the different types of authority which they serve. This occupies no less than 42 pages. In addition, there are new sections on Civil Aviation and the establishment of municipal aerodromes, Industrial Development, Public Health statistics, Municipal Health services, a survey of recent development in Sewage Disposal, Land Drainage, Police Administration, and Local Government Finance.

Another feature which deserves commendation is that, whereas in previous years the introductory notes to the various sections of the *Year Book* have been contributed anonymously, many of them in the present edition have been written by well-known experts. For example, Mr. J. G. Martin, the Secretary of the National Housing and Town Planning Council, writes on Housing progress in 1932. Councillor A. T. Pike, J.P., secretary of the Garden Cities Town Planning Association, is responsible for the section "Town Planning in 1932." The section of Industrial Development is contributed by Mr. L. A. de L. Meredith, General Manager of the Travel and Industrial Development Association of Great Britain and Ireland.

The *Year Book* contains a short preface by Sir E. Hilton Young; and Mr. Pybus, the late Minister of Transport, contributes a foreword.

(Continued on page 110)

PITMAN'S BOOKS

AN IMPORTANT NEW EDITION

THE MUNICIPAL STUDENT'S EXAMINATION NOTEBOOK

By STANLEY WHITEHEAD, F.I.M.T.A., A.S.A.A., Borough Treasurer, Hammersmith.

THIS is a leading textbook for students preparing for the I.M.T.A. examinations. It has been thoroughly revised in accordance with the latest alterations in the syllabus, and contains, among many other valuable features, complete new chapters on Costing, Banking, Public Finance and Economic Science. It is an indispensable revision and reference work for every I.M.T.A. examination candidate.

Crown 8vo. 334 pp. 7/6 net.

"An excellent examination notebook. . . . Will prove a boon," says *The Accountant*.

"It is indispensable to every junior in the treasurer's or accountant's office," says *The Municipal Journal*.

Order from a bookseller or

SIR ISAAC PITMAN & SONS, LTD., PARKER STREET, KINGSWAY, W.C.2

Complete catalogue of Pitman's Books for Municipal officers and students will be sent post free on application.

EDUCATIONAL COURSES FOR OFFICERS

DRAFT PROGRAMMES FOR THE N.A.L.G.O. SUMMER SCHOOLS AT OXFORD AND ST. ANDREWS

PROVISIONAL arrangements have been completed for the holding of a week's studies for local government officers at the N.A.L.G.O. Summer School, to be held this year at University College, Oxford, from July 15 to 22. A school for Scottish officers will, as in previous years, be held at St. Andrews University.

A series of interesting discussions will be initiated by a group of well-known lecturers, among them Mr. Ivor Jennings, M.A., LL.B., Reader in English Law in the University of London; Mr. J. R. Maud, M.A., Junior Dean, University College, Oxford, and Praelector in Political Organisation; and Professor J. H. Jones, M.A., Professor of Economics, University of Leeds, who will conduct the Oxford courses; and Mr. D. T. Jack, M.A., Lecturer in Economics at St. Andrews University; Dr. Bowie, Principal of Dundee School of Economics and Commerce; and Mr. J. W. Nisbet, LL.B., of Glasgow University, those for Scotland.

Under the main title, "Local Services," Mr. Ivor Jennings, at the Oxford School, will deal with four conditions of efficient local government, namely: (i) The need for monopoly, (ii) the suitability of the area, (iii) the efficiency of the officers, and (iv) the adequacy of council control. Mr. Maud will follow with a comparison between English and foreign local government administration, while Professor Jones will lecture on "Saving and Spending—a Study of Economic Policy."

Ostensibly with the object of interesting the associations of Local Authorities in the work carried on by N.A.L.G.O.'s Education Committee, invitations are being extended to the chairmen of the County Councils' Association, the Association of Municipal Corporations, the Urban District Councils' Association, the Rural District Councils' Association, the non-County Boroughs' Association, the Metropolitan Boroughs' Standing Joint Committee, and the Association of Education Committees.

A new feature at the Summer School this year will be a mock Council Meeting.

ESSAY COMPETITION

Sir Arthur Robinson, G.C.B., C.B.E., Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Health, has intimated his desire to associate himself with the forthcoming Summer School, and has

offered prizes of the value of five guineas to be competed for in an Essay Competition. The Association is indebted to Sir Arthur Robinson for his continued interest in the educational work of N.A.L.G.O., and for so kindly having consented to read the essays submitted and award the prizes.

The competition for 1933 will be divided into two classes:

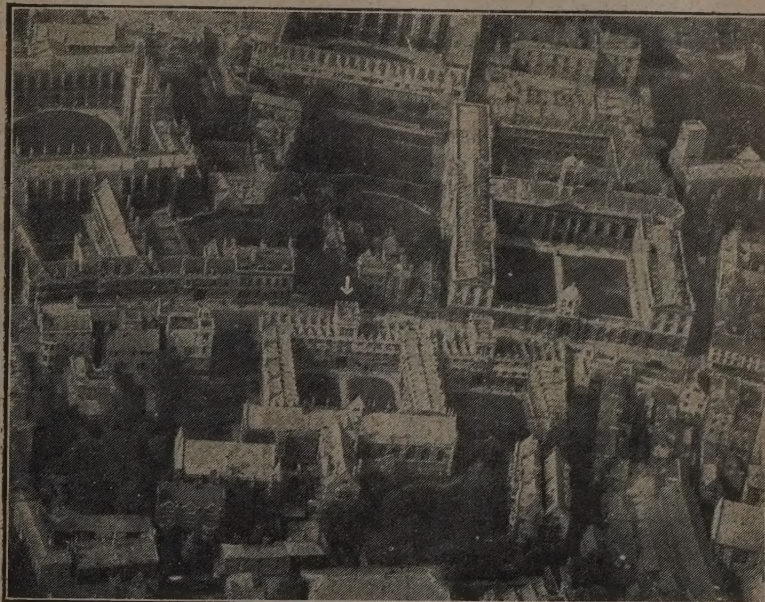
Class I, for officers whose salary is £250

The winning essay, or a précis thereof, will be published in the LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE. The question of holding an informal meeting at the Oxford Summer School will be considered at a later date.

RULES OF THE COMPETITION

(1) The competition is open to all members of the N.A.L.G.O.

(2) The essay may be in manuscript, type-written, or printed.



OXFORD COLLEGES FROM THE AIR WITH UNIVERSITY IN THE FOREGROUND

per annum or more. Value of prize three guineas.

Class II, for officers whose salary is less than £250 per annum. Value of prize two guineas.

The subjects are the same in both cases, but the essays will be judged in the two classes. The subjects are as follows:—

(1) To what extent, and in what way, are rates a burden?

(2) What are the criteria for judging how much local rate burden a district can stand without serious harm, and how are the criteria applied to particular districts.

(3) What are your views as to the probable future development of Local Government, with special reference to present tendencies and present needs.

(3) No stipulation is made as to length.

(4) The final selection by Sir Arthur Robinson must be taken as conclusive.

(5) Essays must reach the General Secretary, N.A.L.G.O., 24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1, on or before June 17, 1933.

(6) Each essay must be headed with the title chosen, a *nom-de-plume*, and a note of whether the competitor desires his essay to be judged in Class I or Class II. A sealed envelope containing the author's name, address, and branch and bearing on the outside his *nom-de-plume* and class must accompany the essay. Indication of the author's identity should not appear on the essay.

(7) The result of the competition will be announced prior to July 15, 1933.

N.A.L.G.O. EXAMINATION RESULTS

The following candidates passed the Association's Examinations held in January, 1933:

PRELIMINARY

A. R. Ashby (Yiewsley and West Drayton U.D.C.), H. F. Binder (Oxford C.B.C.), A. P. Birkinshaw, A. D. S. Blackhall (Wednesbury B.C.), A. C. W. Bluett (Willesden U.D.C.), W. G. Collam, G. T. Hughes (Leicester C.B.C.), C. E. Impett (Ramsgate B.C.), C. N. Johnson (West Bromwich C.B.C.), T. J. Richards (Swansea Port Sanitary Authority), A. T. Robeson (East Barnet Valley U.D.C.), E. A. Wragg (Nottinghamshire C.C.).

INTERMEDIATE

M. Bacon (Somerset C.C.), I. J. Bishop (Hampshire C.C.), E. H. Boundy (Somerset C.C.), N. W. N. Davis (Portsmouth C.B.C.), T. Fleming (Preston C.B.C.), W. Forshaw

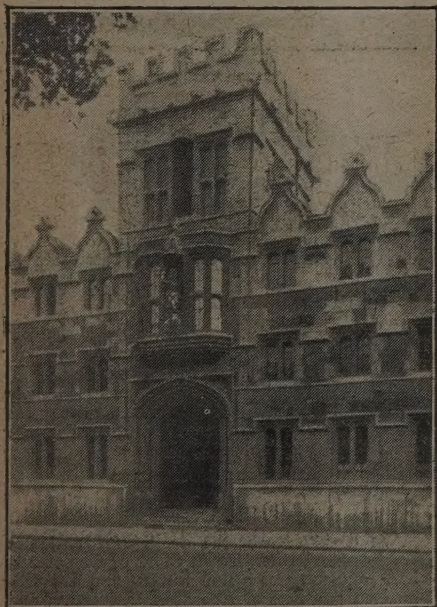
(Preston C.B.C.), R. S. Forster (Darlington C.B.C.), A. W. Francis (Ilford B.C.), L. E. Haines (Willesden U.D.C.), F. L. Harding (Barking B.C.), F. Hayter (Somerset N.H.I. Committee), J. Hudson (Blackburn C.B.C.), G. Stevens (Bognor Regis U.D.C.), R. E. Stone (Portsmouth C.B.C.), E. C. Woolard (Durham C.C.).

FINAL

F. B. Church (Kent C.C.), F. K. Clarke (Middlesex C.C.), H. M. Cleare (East Ham C.B.C.), D. F. Edwards (Port of Bristol), A. H. Evans (Willesden U.D.C.), J. J. Nixon (Windsor B.C.), H. G. Rose (Pontypridd U.D.C.), S. E. Thompson (Bristol C.B.C.).

The Percentages of candidates who passed the Examinations were:

Preliminary 29%. Intermediate 48%. Final 100%.



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, OXFORD

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

HEADQUARTERS:

24 ABINGDON STREET,
WESTMINSTER, S. W. 1.

ALL HEADQUARTERS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to the General Secretary and endorsed with the appropriate subject, e.g., "Legal," "Insurance," "Finance," "Organisation," "Education," or "Special Activities." Telephone: Victoria 8592 (6 lines). Telegrams: Natassoc, Parl, London.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DINNER

Presentation to Mr. E. W. B. Abbott

Medieval and modern met in the City of London on March 18th, when the National Executive Council of the National Association of Local Government Officers dined, by courtesy of the Master and Wardens of the Worshipful Company of Barber-Surgeons, in Barber's Hall. Mr. Samuel Lord, Borough Treasurer of Acton and president of the Association, presided, and among others present were Sir Herbert Blain, C.B.E.; Sir Henry Jackson, M.P.; Sir Arthur P. Johnson, M.A., J.P.; Sir Cyril W. Hurcomb, K.C.B., C.B., of the Ministry of Transport; Mr. I. G. Gibbon, C.B., C.B.E., of the Ministry of Health; and Mr. F. W. Leggett, C.B., of the Ministry of Labour. Occasion was taken at the dinner to make a presentation to Mr. Edgar W. B. Abbott.

Mr. S. Lord, who made the presentation, referred to the untiring efforts of Mr. Abbott in the advancement of the Association, particularly on the educational side, and paid high tribute to his work as Chairman of the Education Committee from 1918 to 1932. Mr. Lord mentioned, also, that from 1927 until his retirement in 1932, Mr. Abbott had been a Vice-President of the Association, and that he had not reached the highest office in the Association—that of President—owing to the fact that he had to resign his membership of the Council through ill-health. The Council, Mr. Lord said, had unanimously decided to commemorate Mr. Abbott's work in connection with the educational activities of N.A.L.G.O. by instituting an "E. W. B. Abbott" Scholarship, but now he asked Mr. Abbott to accept some silver plate, suitably inscribed, as a tangible memento of their esteem and affection. He concluded by wishing Mr. Abbott a complete recovery to health and many years of happy and well-earned rest. Mr. Abbott, in his reply, thanked the members for what they had done and assured them that, although he was forced to relinquish his active part in the Association's work, his interest was, nevertheless, undiminished.

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL 1.—Report of the N.E.C. to be issued to representatives with Agenda.

APRIL 15.—Amendments to motions in Conference Agenda to be received at Headquarters by 5 p.m.

APRIL 15.—Voting Papers for N.E.C. to be in hands of Branch Secretaries.

APRIL 23.—Voting Papers for N.E.C. to be in hands of members.

MAY 1.—Voting Papers to be in hands of Secretary of District Committee.

MAY 1.—Journal will contain amendments to motions in Conference Agenda.

MAY 2.—Counting of votes for N.E.C. commences in each district.

HEADQUARTERS AND BRANCHES

The following Circulars have been remitted to branch honorary secretaries from Headquarters:—

MARCH 14

Circular No. 18/Gen./1933.

Regarding Whitley Councils (particularly Provincial Whitley Councils) in the local government service.

MARCH 13

Circular No. 19/Gen./1933.

(a) Enclosing copies of new camp brochure and stating that further copies are available on request.

(b) Concerning the Association's holiday camps at Croyde Bay and Cayton Bay.

(c) Requesting early bookings at the two camps.

Circular No. 20/Gen./1933.

(a) Stating that a copy of the 1933 N.A.L.G.O. Holiday Guide was being despatched to each branch.

(b) Giving particulars regarding the Holiday Guide.

(c) Enclosing order form for further copies required.

MARCH 14

Circular No. 21/1933.

(a) Enclosing a copy of the book "The Parish Pump," and stating that further copies may be obtained through the usual booksellers.

(b) Concerning the proposed informal meeting of those Education Correspondents who will be present at the Annual Conference.

(c) Stating that a supply of booklets is available for a small propaganda campaign in connection with the correspondence courses.

(d) Giving the dates of the next N.A.L.G.O. examinations and last date for receipt of entry forms at Headquarters.

MARCH 17

Circular No. 22/Gen./1933.

To Hon. Secretaries of the District Committees:—

Enclosing copy of Circular No. 18 recently issued to all branches;

Requesting that the subject of Whitleyism may appear on the Agenda for the next meeting of the district committee, and that the branches' informative campaign may have the support of each district committee; and asking for periodical reports to be sent in on the progress made in each district.

MARCH 21

Circular No. 23/AS/1933. (To Local Correspondents.)

Asking for a reply to circular AS/14 requesting name and membership number of members

of the Approved Society in the branch who were not members of the parent association.

MARCH 27

Circular No. 24/Log/1933. (To Local Correspondents.)

Enclosing a copy of circular 17, dealing with life assurance and setting out requisition form for further copies required.

MARCH 31

Circular No. 25/Con/1933.

(a) Enclosing copies of the Conference Agenda and Annual Report equal to the number of representatives on the district committee; (b) containing instructions regarding the issue of voting papers for the election of the National Executive Council to members and their despatch to the honorary secretary of the district committee.

Circular No. 26/Con/1933. To Conference Delegates.)

(a) Enclosing first despatch of literature to delegates to the Annual Conference; (b) containing information relating to further supply of forms, etc., admission to the public session, appointment of substitutes and the last day for the receipt by Headquarters of considered amendments; (c) stating that a copy of the minutes of the 1932 conference is available for reference on application to the branch secretaries.

NOMINATIONS FOR VICE-PRESIDENCY

The East Midland District Committee submitted the name of Mr. W. R. Kew, Town Clerk, Northampton, for consideration by the National Executive Council when considering the nominations that should be submitted to the Annual Conference. The name of Mr. Kew should have appeared in the list of persons considered which appeared in the March, 1933, issue of the journal, page 63, in reporting on the meeting of the National Executive Council.

SIR ARTHUR JOHNSON

Sir Arthur P. Johnson, ex-Town Clerk of Hampstead, has been appointed a permanent Justice of the Peace for the County of London. Sir Arthur, who retired from the local government service in 1931, served Hampstead for thirty-eight years, formerly as Clerk to the old Vestry and later as Town Clerk and Solicitor. As honorary solicitor, and later as president of the National Association of Local Government Officers, he played an active part in the development of that organisation.

COST OF LIVING

Below we give the average monthly percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, in the Cost of Living Index for the past six months; October, 43; November, 43; December, 43; January, 42; February, 41; March, 39. The percentage increases in each of the five groups on which the Index Figure is based are as follows:

	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.
Food	23	22	19
Rent	55	55	55
Clothing ..	90	85	85
Fuel and Light	75	75	75
Other Items ..	75	75	75

The fall in prices in the Food group is largely accounted for by further reductions in the prices of eggs and butter and by reductions in the price of milk in some districts.

OBITUARY

We deeply regret the death of Mr. James W. Johnston, B.L., Town Clerk of Clydebank. Mr. Johnston was a fine student and a distinguished graduate of Aberdeen University, and was first President of the Dumbartonshire Branch.

A BUNGALOW CAMPING HOLIDAY

A holiday in one of the N.A.L.G.O. Camps is the happiest obtainable—and the cheapest. Bathing, Walking, Putting, Tennis, Dancing, Sports, Billiards, Concerts. Warm, Waterproof Bungalows.

CROYDE CAMP (N. Devon)

Glorious Devon for Cream and Sunshine.

CAYTON BAY

Near Scarborough.

England's most modern Bungalow Camp and delightfully situated.

GRAND OPENING, JULY 1

Terms at Both Camps

	£	s.	d.
April and May ..	2	2	0
June to September ..	2	5	0
July and August ..	2	7	6

Special Terms for Children.

YOU MUST BOOK EARLY

Particulars from:

N.A.L.G.O.

24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1

National Association of Local Government Officers

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Folkestone

Commencing JUNE 3rd, 1933

AGENDA

Containing Notices of Motion, Amendments to which must be received not later than 5 p.m. on April 15, 1933.

PLACE OF MEETING :

MARINE GARDENS PAVILION, Folkestone

NOTE : The proceedings will commence at 9.30 a.m. on Saturday, June 3, 1933, and on Monday June 5, 1933. The Conference will adjourn for luncheon at 12.30 p.m. and reassemble at 2.30 p.m. on each day, unless otherwise determined. On Saturday, June 3, 1933, the Conference will adjourn at 4.15 p.m. to enable the Annual General Meeting of the National and Local Government Officers' Mutual Insurance Association, Limited, to be held in the Marine Gardens Pavilion, at 4.30 p.m. The Session on Saturday morning will be open to all local government officers and the public.

1. OFFICIAL WELCOME BY HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF FOLKESTONE, ALDERMAN J. W. STAINER, J.P.

2. PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE HELD ON MAY 14 AND 16, 1932.

3. ADDRESSES.

4. BENEVOLENT AND ORPHAN FUND.

(a) Purses, etc.

(i) The Mayoress of Folkestone, Mrs. Stainer, will receive the Purses of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund.

(ii) The Mayoress of Folkestone, Mrs. Stainer, will present the "Sir Homewood Crawford" Shield, the "Sir Charles Wakefield" (Lord Wakefield) Shield, and the "Bridlington" Cup.

(iii) To receive the Honorary Treasurer's Financial Statement.

(iv) To receive the Report of the Management Committee.

5. RULE 17—CONSTITUTION AND POWERS OF REGIONAL COMMITTEES.

Notice of Motion given by the North-Western District Committee.

That Rule 17a be amended as follows :

"Delete the words 'one of whom must be a member of the Council' and in lieu thereof substitute the following : 'exclusive of the Chairman and Secretary of the District Committee, who shall be ex-officio members of the Committee.'"

6. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

7. ELECTION OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND HONORARY OFFICERS.

(a) To receive the President's announcement of the result of the ballots for the election of members of the National Executive Council ;

(b) To consider the following nominations of the National Executive Council for the Honorary Officers of the Association :

President :

C. G. BROWN, LL.B., Town Clerk, Cardiff.

Two Vice-Presidents :

Sir Tom Percival, Clerk to the Central Northumberland Assessment Committee and Superintendent Registrar.

Dr. A. Witherspoon, Medical Officer of Health, Stoke-on-Trent.

Three Trustees :

S. Lord, F.I.M.T.A., F.S.A.A., Borough Treasurer, Acton.

W. H. Whinnerah, A.C.I.S., Secretary, Highways Department, Manchester.

H. Begg, F.R.C.V.S., County Veterinary Inspector, Lanarkshire C.C.

Honorary Treasurer :

W. E. Lloyd, F.S.A.A., Borough Treasurer, Hampstead.

Honorary Solicitor for England :

P. H. Harrold, Town Clerk, Hampstead.

Honorary Solicitor for Wales :

D. J. Parry, M.A., B.Sc., Solicitor to the Glamorgan C.C.

Honorary Solicitor for Scotland :

G. S. Fraser, M.A., B.L., Town Clerk, Aberdeen.

8. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

Notice of Motion given by the National Executive Council.

"That Messrs. Jackson, Pixley & Co., Chartered Accountants, of 58 Coleman Street, London, E.C.2, be appointed the Association's Auditors for the year 1933, and that a fee of £262 10s. (two hundred and sixty-two pounds, ten shillings) be paid to them for such services."

9. SCRUTINEERS.

To appoint scrutineers to record votes during the Conference.

10. TO RECEIVE THE HONORARY TREASURER'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND BALANCE SHEET.

11. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

12. HONORARY OFFICERS.

Notice of Motion given by Metropolitan District Committee.

"That the Metropolitan District Committee is of opinion that the prestige, financial position and official personnel of N.A.L.G.O. do not necessitate the appointment of an Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Solicitors, and that Conference be asked to consider the question of discontinuing such offices."

13. EXPENSES OF BRANCHES COVERING LARGE RURAL AREAS.

Notice of Motion given by the South-Western District Committee.

"That paragraph 14 of the Report of the N.E.C. be referred back for further consideration with a view to the payment of a special capitation grant to branches covering large Rural areas in order to meet the additional expenses incurred in respect of members whose work necessitates their residence at some distance from branch headquarters, such payments to be made only upon the recommendation of the District Committee."

14. ORGANISATION OF COUNTY STAFFS.

Notice of Motion given by the Surrey County Officers' Branch.

"That in view of the changes in local government, consequent upon the 1929 Act, the National Executive Council be requested to appoint a Committee to consider and report upon the best type of organisation for county staffs."

15. TERMS OF APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.

(a) Notice of Motion given by the West Cornwall Branch.

"That the terms of appointment of all officers with authorities, whose population does not exceed 20,000, be subject to the approval of the Ministry of Health."

(b) Notice of Motion given by the Plymouth Branch.

"That the National Executive Council be instructed to approach the Government with a view to the establishment of national standards of rates of remuneration and conditions of service for the employees of Local Authorities similar to those prevailing in our National Civil Service."

16. SUPERANNUATION.

(i) Notice of Motion given by the South-Western District Committee and the West Cornwall Branch.

"That in view of the anomalies arising through the operation of Superannuation Schemes throughout the country, His Majesty's Government be asked to introduce, during the present session, a Government measure giving compulsory superannuation to all local government officers."

(ii) Notice of Motion given by the South Wales and Monmouthshire District Committee and the Gwent Branch.

"That this Conference, whilst recording its appreciation of the sustained effort of the National Executive Council in pressing the claim for a compulsory Superannuation Act, views with increasing anxiety the continued delay in establishing such an enactment and appeals to H.M. Government to adopt as a Government measure, a Bill to ensure superannuation for all local government employees and to devote the necessary time during the present session to its passage into law, particularly having regard to the anomalies in this respect created under the operation of the Local Government Act, 1929. That the gist of this resolution be conveyed accordingly to H.M. Government."

(iii) Notice of Motion given by the Dover Branch.

"That in view of the resolution passed by the Conference in 1932 apparently not having brought the enactment of compulsory superannuation for Local Government Officers any nearer, the National Executive Council be instructed again to impress upon H.M. Government the urgent necessity for dealing with this matter during the present Session of Parliament."

(iv) Notice of Motion given by the West Riding County Officers' Branch.

"That the National Executive Council be requested to explore the possibility of securing amending legislation to the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, so as to provide that any officer who is compulsorily retired at an age less than 65 years on the grounds of national economy or by the operation of the 'Ray' Report shall be entitled to have non-contributory service calculated in sixtieths for the purpose of allowance under the Act."

(v) Notice of Motion given by the Gateshead Branch.

"That in any Scheme formulated for amending the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, provision should be made to make it possible for women to retire five years earlier than in the case of men."

(vi) Notice of Motion given by the North-Western District Committee.

"That the National Executive Council be requested to explore every avenue with the object of drawing up a Superannuation Scheme for N.A.L.G.O. Members employed by Authorities who have not adopted Superannuation."

17. ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Notice of Motion given by the Surrey County Officers' Branch.

"That the National Executive Council be requested to adopt a definite policy with regard to eligibility for membership."

18. COMPLETE SYSTEM OF WHITLEY COUNCILS.

Notice of Motion given by the National Executive Council.

"This Annual Conference of the National Association of Local Government Officers representative of 70,000 officers in the local government service unanimously—

- (1) Expresses regret that it has not been found possible to re-establish a National Whitley Council and to increase the number of Provincial Whitley Councils ;

- (2) Re-affirms the claims of the Association to comprehensive and regular machinery for collective bargaining and agreements no less effective than that now existing for all other sections in the public service (teachers, police, medical officers, electrical engineers, technical staffs in electricity departments, fire brigades and manual workers (non-trading and trading) ;

- (3) Urges the associations of local authorities actively to co-operate with this Association in establishing a complete system of Whitley Councils and Committees with a view to the better regulation of all matters of mutual concern to the local authorities and the staffs by means of a National Joint Council or Councils, Provincial Joint Councils and Local Joint Committees ;

- (4) Urges the Minister of Health and the Minister of Labour to render every possible assistance towards the establishment of a complete system of Whitley Councils so as to put an end to the disability affecting the majority of local government officers and enable them to participate in the regulation of their conditions of service to the same extent as occurs with all other sections of the public service, national and local."

19. REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LOCAL EXPENDITURE (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Notice of Motion given by the Altrincham and District Branch.

"That this Conference takes strong exception to the suggestion made by the Economy Committee in their Report on Local Expenditure—that local authorities are overstaffed and that a saving of five million pounds could be effected on wages and salaries throughout the country."

20. ANNUAL CONFERENCE—SECTIONAL MEETINGS.

Notice of Motion given by the Manchester Branch.

"This Conference, recognising that from time to time matters appear upon the Conference Agenda which specially affect the members of a particular section of the local government service, deems it desirable that such matters should be discussed by the delegates directly concerned before being debated in full Conference."

"That the National Executive Council be instructed to make arrangements for a sectional meeting when the branch responsible for any such motion desires its separate consideration."

21. HOSPITAL AND NURSING HOME SCHEMES.

Notice of Motion given by the South-Western District Committee and the Devon County Officers' Branch.

"That the National Executive Council be requested to consider the adoption of a scheme designed to afford assistance towards hospital or nursing homes' treatment, particularly for those members and their dependants who at present are outside the scope of existing hospital aid societies."

22. TENURE OF OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.

Notice of Motion given by the Walsall and District Branch.

"That this Conference regrets that further progress has not been made towards presenting to Parliament the Bill referred to in paragraph 85 of the Report of the National Executive Council presented to Conference in 1932, and that the Council be instructed to proceed with the matter without delay."

23. SUPERANNUATION—WIDOWS' PENSIONS.

Notice of Motion given by the North-Western District Committee.

"That the National Executive Council be instructed to obtain an Actuarial Report of the cost of providing pensions to widows of Local Government Officers at a rate equal to one-third of the superannuation allowance which the officer would be entitled to at the date of his death—such report to cover :

- (a) cases of officers dying prior to retirement, and
- (b) cases of officers dying after retirement, and the report to include such conditions as may be necessary to ensure as low a cost as possible ; and that after consideration of the Actuarial Report the National Executive Council be instructed to obtain the opinions of Branches on the question."

24. RULE 4—DEFINITIONS.

Notice of Motion given by the National Executive Council.

"That Rule 4 of the rules and constitution of the Association be amended as follows :

RULE 4—Insert the words 'and shall include a pupil articulated to a local government officer' after the word 'Parliament' at the end of the definition of 'local government officer.' "

25. RULE 9—SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Notice of Motion given by the Eastern District Committee.

"That Rule 9 of the Association be amended as follows :
Delete the words 'The branch shall retain thirty-five per cent. of the total amount collected in subscriptions during each year' and substitute therefor the words 'The percentage of the total amount collected in subscriptions during each year to be retained by branches shall be as follows :
County Branches ... 40 per cent.
All other branches ... 35 per cent.' "

26. RULE 19—HONORARY OFFICERS.

(a) Notice of Motion given by the Metropolitan District Committee.

"That Rule 19 (b) of the rules and constitution of the Association be amended as follows :

RULE 19 (b)—By the insertion of the words 'and/or a district committee' between the words 'Council' and 'and' in the second line of the rule."

(b) Notice of Motion given by the Yorkshire District Committee.

"That to paragraph (b) of rule 19 be added :
'Provided that before making such nominations the Council shall invite the respective district committees to submit the names of persons who in their opinion are suitable to be honorary officers, and that when considering the nominations the Council shall have regard primarily to the services rendered to the Association by the respective persons, and no person otherwise eligible shall be considered unsuitable for nomination by reason of the fact that he does not occupy a principal office in the service of a local authority.' "

27. RULE 28—AGENDA.

(a) Notice of Motion given by the National Executive Council.

"That Rule 28 of the rules and constitution of the Association be amended as follows :

RULE 28—Transpose numbers 1 and 2 of clause (b) of the rule.

Add after the word 'Report' in sub-section (3) (d) of section (b) of the rule the words 'and notices of motion and amendments relative thereto.'

Add after sub-section (3) (d) of section (b) of the rule the following new sub-sections :

'(e) Notices of motion and amendments thereto, other than alterations and amendments of rules and except as provided by sub-section (d) of this section.'

'(f) Amendments and alterations of rules, except as provided by sub-section (d) of this section.'

Add after the word 'Council' in sub-section (10) of section (b) of the rule the words 'and notices of motion and amendments relative thereto.'

Add after the word 'Rules' in sub-section (11) of section (b) of the rule the words 'except as provided by sub-section (10) of this section.'

Add after the word 'Rules' in sub-section (12) of section (b) of the rule the words 'except as provided by sub-section (10) of this section.'

Delete section (c) and substitute the following therefor :

'(c) Motions and amendments may only be made by the Council, district committees, branches and sectional and professional organisations which are members of the Association's Standing Joint Committee. Provided that motions made by district committees, branches and sectional and professional organisations referred to above must be received by the General Secretary not later than 5 o'clock p.m. on 1st day of March and that motions must be made by the Council not later than the 31st day of March.'

Delete section (e) and substitute the following therefor :

'(e) Any amendments to motions to be considered by the Conference must be received by the General Secretary not later than 5 o'clock p.m. on the 15th day of April and shall be published in the May issue of the Official Journal.' "

(b) Notice of Motion given by the West Riding County Officers' Branch.

"RULE 28 (b)—Item 14—Induction of President—to be renumbered 4 and items 4 to 15 to be renumbered accordingly."

28. RULE 48—CASUAL VACANCIES.

Notice of Motion given by the National Executive Council.

"That Rule 48 of the rules and constitution of the Association be amended as follows :

RULE 48—Delete the word 'March' from the last line of the rule and substitute the word 'January' therefor."

29. RULE 51—REPRESENTATION.

(a) Notice of Motion given by the National Executive Council.

"That Rule 51 (3) of the rules and constitution of the Association be amended as follows :

RULE 51 (3)—Delete the words 'the same voting paper as is' from line 7 of section 3 of the rule and substitute the words 'a voting paper separate from that' therefor."

(b) Notice of Motion given by the East Midland District Committee.

"That the rules and constitution be amended so as to provide that each District in England and Wales with a membership of 2,500 and over shall have not less than two representatives on the National Executive Council (including representatives elected under Rule 51), and if two representatives have not been so elected, the unsuccessful candidate with the highest number of votes shall be deemed to be elected."

30. RULE 55—BRANCHES.

Notice of Motion given by the Stirling and District Branch.

"RULE 55—After the word 'except' in the last line, insert the words, 'with sanction of N.E.C. or.' "

31. STAFF SUPERANNUATION FUND RULES.

Notice of Motion given by the National Executive Council.

"That the rules of the Staff Superannuation Fund be amended as follow :

RULE 1.—Definition of 'Member.'

Insert after the word 'Council' in line 3 the words 'or on the permanent staff of the Nalگو Approved Society's Convalescent Home at Matlock.'

RULE 1.—Definition of 'Contributing Service.'

At the end of the definition of 'contributing service' add 'and in the case of a member appointed to the permanent staff of the Association after the first day of July, 1924, in a post the previous holder of which had been admitted as a member of the fund, such period of service of such member with any local authority immediately prior to his appointment on the permanent staff of the Association and in such manner and on such terms as the Council determines.'

RULE 1.—Definition of 'Non-contributing Service.'

(i) Delete from line 1 of paragraph (b) of the definition the words 'who has been or shall be'; insert after the figures '1924' in line 3 of the paragraph the words 'but before the 1st day of July, 1932.'

(ii) Insert after the first 'the' in line 6 of the paragraph the word 'permanent,' and in the same line after the word 'Association' insert 'and in such manner and on such terms.'

(iii) Delete the proviso to the paragraph (lines 8 to 13).

(iv) Insert at end of paragraph (b) the following new paragraphs :

'(c) In the case of a member who became a member of the permanent staff of the Association on the first day of April, 1930, as the result of the amalgamation of the National Poor Law Officers' Association, Incorporated, with the Association, his period of service prior to that date with either the National Poor Law Officers' Association, Incorporated, the National Poor Law Officers' Association, Incorporated, Approved Society (Approved No. 226), or the National and Local Government Officers' Mutual Insurance Association, Limited, in such manner and on such terms as the Council determines.

'(d) In the case of a member who has been or shall be admitted a member of the fund after 31st day of December, 1930, and who prior to the date of his admission to the fund had been a member of the permanent staff of either the Association or the Nalگو Approved Society's Convalescent Home at Matlock, such period of service of such member on the staff of the Association or the aforesaid Convalescent Home, as the case may be, immediately prior to the date of his admission to the fund as the Council determines : Provided that such member pays into the fund by way of a lump sum or instalments as may be prescribed by the Council the amount certified by the actuary to be required to meet the additional liability imposed on the fund by reason of the recognition of such period of service as non-contributing service.

'(e) In the case of a member who has been or shall be appointed a member of the permanent staff of the Association after the 30th day of June, 1932, such period of service of such member with any local

authority immediately prior to his appointment on the staff of the Association as the Council determines : Provided that such member pays into the fund by way of a lump sum or instalments as may be prescribed by the Council the amount certified by the actuary to be required to meet the additional liability imposed on the fund by reason of the recognition of such period of service as non-contributing service.

- (v) Insert at the end of the definition of 'Non-contributing service,' as proposed to be amended, the following words 'Provided that no period of service of a member with any local authority prior to his appointment on the permanent staff of the Association shall be taken into account for the purposes of the fund unless the member concerned proves such period of service to the satisfaction of the Council.'

RULE 3.—Admission to Membership.

Delete paragraph (b) and insert a new paragraph as follows :

- (b) Every person appointed to the permanent staff of the Association or the Nalگو Approved Society's Convalescent Home at Matlock, after the 1st day of July, 1924, who at the date of appointment had attained the age of 18 years or who subsequently attains that age whom the Council admits to membership of the fund.'

RULE 9.—Contributions of Members.

- (i) Insert after the word 'Association' in line 2 the words 'or the Nalگو Approved Society's Convalescent Home at Matlock.'
- (ii) Delete from lines 3, 4, 5 and 6 in paragraph (2) the words 'appointment, or if on that date he has not reached the age of eighteen years, then from the date of his attaining the age of eighteen years' and insert in place thereof the words 'admission to the fund.'
- (iii) Insert after the word 'Association' in line 9 the words 'or the Nalگو Approved Society, as the case may be.'

RULE 10a.—Insert new rule as follows :

'The Council may, on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, admit as members of the fund members of the staff of any Association similar to the Association.'

RULE 14.—Contributions for less than ten years :

- (i) Delete from lines 1 and 2 the words 'who was in the service of the Association on the first day of July, 1924,' and insert the words 'in the service of the Association on the appointed day' therefor.
- (ii) At the end of the rule insert the words 'for the purposes of this rule "the appointed day" shall be deemed to be in the case of a member who was in the service of the Association on the first day of July, 1924, or in the case of a member of the staff of the Nalگو Approved Society who was transferred to the permanent staff of the Association on the first day of October, 1925, the first day of July, 1924, and in the case of any other member occupying at the date of designation any post designated after the first day of July, 1924, the date of designation of such post.'

32. TO DETERMINE THE VENUE OF THE 1934 CONFERENCE.

The following invitations have been received :

- (a) From the Margate Borough Council :
Town Clerk's Office,
40 Grosvenor Place,
Margate.

May 30, 1932.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th instant and note that Folkestone will be the venue of the Annual Conference in 1933.

I am directed by the Mayor and Town Council to extend a cordial invitation to your Association to hold its Annual Conference in Margate in 1934 or the following year.

As I stated in my letter of the 4th instant, Margate has ample hotel and boarding house accommodation and a very fine pavilion which would be at the disposal of the Conference. A civic reception would be accorded to the delegates ; also facilities to enjoy the concerts provided by the Corporation.

The Town Council hope they will have the pleasure of welcoming the Conference at an early date.

Yours faithfully,

P. T. GROVE,

Town Clerk.

- (b) From the Bournemouth County Borough Council :
Town Clerk's Office,
Bournemouth.

October 7, 1932.

Dear Sir,

I am asked by my Council to extend to the Local Government Officers' National Association a very cordial invitation to hold their annual Conference in Bournemouth at as early a date as can be arranged.

The attractions in and around Bournemouth are remarkably varied and to the natural beauty of the

surroundings there has been added such facilities for entertainment and recreation as the most progressive enterprise can provide. There are also excellent services of trains and motor coaches which make Bournemouth easily accessible from any part of the country.

The official guide, a copy of which I send for your information, details more fully the amenities which the town offers to its visitors.

I shall be obliged if you will be so good as to place this invitation before your Association when they are considering the venue of their next Conference.

Yours faithfully,

HERBERT ASHLING,
Town Clerk.

- (c) From the Buxton Borough Council :

Town Hall,
Buxton.

October 25, 1932.

Dear Mr. Hill,

You may remember that early this year the Corporation extended an invitation to the National Association of Local Government Officers to hold their annual Conference in 1933 at Buxton.

I am instructed by the Council to extend this invitation for the following year, 1934, and I shall be glad if you will submit this invitation to your next Executive Meeting.

If any further details are required as to accommodation, halls, etc., I shall be only too glad to give any information and assistance and also some indication of the extent of the Corporation's hospitality.

Yours faithfully,

H. C. HOGGETT,
Town Clerk.

- (d) From the County Borough of Blackpool :

Mayor's Parlour,
Town Hall,

Blackpool,
February 27, 1933.

Dear Mr. Hill,

NATIONAL CONFERENCE, 1934.

The Corporation of this Borough extend a very cordial invitation to the National Association of Local Government Officers to hold the 1934 Annual Conference at Blackpool. Your Council may rest assured that in the event of this invitation being accepted no effort will be spared in making the Conference an outstanding and conspicuous success. We are so well known to you and to many members of the Association that I need not stress the fact that there is ample accommodation here at your disposal, both as regards conference halls and hotels and apartments, and a great opportunity will arise for the delegates and the ladies accompanying them deriving benefit from our invigorating air and also thoroughly enjoying the amenities of our borough. The local branch of your Association will, I know, be only too glad to render you loyal and willing help in the running of the Conference and the Corporation will be pleased to extend hospitality and assist in any way they can to ensure the happiness and enjoyment of all attending here in connection with the Conference.

I trust we shall hear that the Association have decided upon Blackpool so that our share in the making of the necessary preliminary arrangements may be put in hand in good time.

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,
THOMAS FENTON,
Mayor.

- (e) From the Scarborough Borough Council.

Town Hall,
Scarborough.
March 17, 1933.

Dear Mr. Hill,

I understand that your National Executive Council will be meeting to-morrow, when the draft Agenda for the Annual Conference in 1933 will be considered, including invitations for the Annual Conference of 1934.

I am sorry that the Mayor of Scarborough is not here to-day to write you personally extending an invitation to your Association to hold their Annual Conference at Scarborough in 1934. Acting on his behalf, I have pleasure in offering most cordially such an invitation and I can say with confidence that if that invitation is accepted, Scarborough will do whatever is possible to make the Conference a success in every way.

Yours faithfully,

SYDNEY JONES,
Town Clerk.

33. INDUCTION OF PRESIDENT.

34. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS.

Local Government Service

Editorial and Advertisement Offices,
3 and 4 Clement's Inn, Strand, London,
W.C.2.

Telephone: Holborn 2288-2289.

Contributions on topical Local Government problems are invited and will receive careful consideration, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the safety of manuscripts submitted for his consideration.

Authoritative local news on matters having more than a purely local interest is welcomed.

Legal and other inquiries relating to Local Government will be answered promptly.

All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

APRIL

1933

NOTES OF THE MONTH

CIRCULAR 1311

THE Ministry of Health Circular No. 1311 to Local Authorities in England and Wales has made its appearance, and this, we presume, is the final Act in the economy farce. That part of the Circular with which we are more closely concerned is printed on another page of this issue.

It would be advisable to read alongside of the Ministry's Circular the Memorandum which the Association put before the Committee on Local Government Economy, because it is perfectly evident that the Association's case has had even more influence upon the Minister of Health than upon the Economy Committee.

Local Authorities' Prerogative

In a few words, we may interpret Circular 1311 as a recognition that only local authorities, and the officers whom they employ, can decide what is a right and proper rate of remuneration for the services which the latter render to the community. It also admits that no sweeping generalisations are permissible, and that such weaknesses that may exist in the local government service conditions can best be adjusted by joint negotiating machinery as between the authorities' associations and officials' associations. This is a tremendous contribution to our policy, and more, it is an endorsement of the claim which we have consistently advanced, that the officers can be trusted, in negotiations, to do the right thing.

Since the Ray Committee was appointed

nearly twelve months ago, the whole economic condition of the country has changed, and opinion which is worth listening to to-day advocates constructive and economic planning. The crisis which faced the country in the autumn of 1931 has passed. It never was an economic crisis—it was a credit crisis, and we are now told by the most responsible spokesmen of the present government that this country's credit is to-day better than that of any other country in the world.

A Graceful Tribute

A fine tribute was paid to the causes contributory to this improved position by Mr. Dingle Foot, M.P., the son of Mr. Isaac Foot, M.P., when speaking at the Annual Dinner of the Incorporated Association of Rating and Valuation Officers a few days ago. "It is perfectly true," Mr. Foot said, "that no country takes more out of the pockets of its citizens; but it is equally true that no country gets better value for its money. It is generally acknowledged that we have the finest civil service in the world; it is not so often acknowledged but it is equally true of the civil service of the localities—the local government officers." Mr. Foot went on to say that in the past two years, the larger nations had been passing through a time of crisis. It was indisputable that Great Britain had stood up to that test better than any other nation. The height of statesmanship was to be able to meet an emergency without taking emergency measures. On the whole, we had needed fewer emergency measures than anyone else. "Was not that due, in large part, to the soundness of our machine of government? Of that machine the permanent officials of local government are an integral and essential part."

It will be asked, no doubt, by many local government officers why should this Circular be issued at this late hour. The only answer one can presume to give is that it was inevitable that something would have to be done with the report of the Committee which the present Government had set up; that something is Circular 1311. It is mild and half-hearted and, no doubt, the Ministry of Health are just as glad to see the last of the Ray Committee as the average local authority will be.

A Double Burden

The crux of the position lies in the fact that whilst the Ray Committee was sitting, and whilst the Minister of Health has been sitting on the Ray Committee's report, the local authorities have been getting on with the job of practising economy, and very little more can be done in this direction. If the Government had faced its own responsibilities of making the cost of unemployment a national charge instead of placing the main burden on the shoulders of local authorities, it would have been possible to show a tremendous saving in rates this

year, and it is unfair and unjust that local government should have to bear, not only the cost of administering certain functions which are national in their incidence and not local, but the resentment of public opinion also.

There are two points in the Circular to which very strong exception can be taken. The first is the suggestion that in any review of salaries consideration should be given to "what increase has been made since 1914." The very mention of that year shows a lamentable weakness in the case—why not 1835 when Local Government began? It would be just as sensible to compare salaries to-day with those paid at the beginning of local government as with 1914.

Chief Officers' Salaries

The other inference is that there can be a scaling down of the salary scales of the higher officers, but we see no justification for this. We know that the Ministry thoroughly dislike the principle of local government officers receiving fees in addition to their salary; this practice is a relic of the past and is being rapidly replaced by an inclusive salary. But there is another side to this question—many of these fees represent most inadequate recompense for additional duties and responsibilities placed upon these officers by Parliamentary legislation, and it is assumed that when these legislative measures were being framed it was recognised to be common fairness to recompense those upon whom additional duties were put without option. We are not defending the system, but the fault is not the officers'. If local authorities follow the advice of Circular 1311 and make a "cautious and fair examination of the work to be done and the remuneration reasonable for that work in present conditions" we shall find that quite a large number of the principal officers in the service will deserve an increase in salary. The Minister very rightly urges that there should not be any ill-considered and all-round reductions of salaries which "in some of the lower grades often do not compare favourably with what is paid in other public service or outside."

THE B. AND O. FUND

"A ball in aid of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund of the National Association of Local Government Officers, organised by the Malvern Branch, drew a crowd of 500 to the Winter Gardens. It was one of the most enjoyable events held this season."

The above is but an extract from an interesting report which appeared in the Press a few days ago, and we quote it in the hope that it will inspire every branch to do something of the kind in aid of the Association's Benevolent and Orphan Fund. The outgoings are rapidly approaching the incomings, and greater efforts are needed if the B. & O. Fund is to retain pride of place in N.A.L.G.O.'s activities.

NALGO COURSES BUILD SOUND CAREERS



Planned within sight of the hub of the Empire, N.A.L.G.O. announces—

A NEW COURSE FOR ENGINEERS

Further Progress by the N.C.I.

Not every engineering student can attend a university or technical college. Yet every local government engineer ought to have the Testamur of the Institution of Municipal and County Engineers.

Every local government engineer should enquire about the new N.A.L.G.O. course for the Testamur. It provides an adequate guide for those preparing for the Testamur by private study or admirable additional help for those attending oral courses.

Many new and interesting features have been incorporated—such as a large number of photo-printed diagrams.

Fee for full course—12 guineas (separate Parts may be taken by arrangement).

Specialist coaching is also provided for students training to be Accountants, Rating and Valuation Officers, Secretaries, Sanitary Inspectors, or Inspectors of Weights and Measures or Gas Meters. Courses are arranged for the examinations of N.A.L.G.O., the Poor Law Examinations Board (for Clerical Officers, Relieving Officers and Institution Officers), and the University of London (Diploma in Public Administration).

Records created in 1932.

New enrolments	783
Exam. successes	295

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SALARIES AND SERVICE CONDITIONS

THE Leeds Council have decided that the Grading Scheme, which, for the last two years has been inoperative, should be operated this year, and that normal increments should be granted.

In our last issue, reference was made to a deputation, consisting of the Divisional Secretary and Mr. J. W. Horwill (Chairman of the Branch), which attended a meeting of the Estimates Sub-Committee at Bradford in connection with a revision of the Grading Scheme which was being effected.

The Sub-Committee requested the Chairman and Deputy Chairman to confer further with representatives of the Branch, and two interviews have taken place. Arising therefrom, the Estimates Sub-Committee recommended to the Finance Committee certain revisions of an important character—revisions which in many instances are distinct improvements on the original proposals so far as a considerable number of the staff are concerned, although they did not go so far as the representatives of the staff strongly urged and desired.

There are many anomalies still to be adjusted, and no doubt further interviews will be sought with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

The Public Assistance Committee at South Shields are, for the third time, turning their attention to the question of Ration Allowances at the Harton Institution. The Branch have been requested to confer with the Committee with a view of economies being effected in the allowances.

The Bournemouth Town Council at its meeting in March adopted the following resolution: "That in future, no person in receipt of a pension exceeding £50 per annum, excepting a disability pension, be engaged by the Council."

The Ministry of Health has issued a Circular, No. 1311, dated March 22, 1933, to Local Authorities, which deals with the recommendations contained in the Report of the Committee on Local Expenditure (England and Wales). See page 90.

Supplementing the information given in the July and subsequent issues of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE, the following further information in regard to salary deductions has been received:

Kent C.C., Middlesex C.C., Fulham, Hammersmith, Smethwick, Croydon, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Middlesbrough, Kesteven C.C., Gateshead, Kingston-upon-Hull, Durham C.C. have decided to continue the deductions.

W. Sussex, Luton, Finsbury, Isle of Ely, Chesterfield R.D.C. are agreed upon a modification of the scale of deductions, while Margate, Paddington, Teddington, Swindon, Portsmouth, Teignmouth are to terminate the deductions.

The Lancashire and Cheshire Provincial Whitley Council at its meeting on March 17 decided that, subject to an abatement of one half of the present salary deductions on the first £250 of any salary, the scheme of salary deductions be continued for a further period of six months ending September 30, 1933.

ERRATUM

Our attention has been drawn to the fact that in "Notes of the Month" of the issue for March (p. 71) Col. Baldwin-Webb was referred to as the Unionist Member for Southport, whereas he is the Member for the Wrekin Division of Shropshire.

C.P.R. PROGRAMME

The Canadian Pacific have decided to further increase their already large and varied holiday programme for the coming season. It is announced that two further cruises will be made from Southampton during August, these will be operated by the 16,400-ton liner *Montclare*, sailing to Oslo, Copenhagen, and Hamburg on August 9, and to Madeira, Casablanca and Vigo on August 19. The cruises will be of 9 and 10 days' duration (minimum fare £10).—Cruise Department, Canadian Pacific, 62-65 Charing Cross, London, S.W.1. (Advt.)

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING MACHINERY

NATIONAL PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN TO ADVANCE WHITLEYISM—AN APPEAL
TO BRANCHES

CIRCULAR letter No. 18, issued to branches on March 14, marks a further and definite step in the efforts to apply Whitley machinery throughout the local government service in matters affecting the administrative, technical, and clerical staffs whose conditions generally are chaotic and unsatisfactory, largely on account of the absence of a complete system for collective bargaining. Each Branch Executive Committee has been asked to commence, at once, with the members of the branch an informative campaign regarding the need for a Provincial Whitley Council for the area, and to extend it as quickly as possible to the members of the local authority. This dual propaganda is essential if there is to be a favourable decision when, in due course, the representatives of the local authorities are called to conferences to consider the establishment of Provincial Whitley Councils for the areas not yet provided for. This matter should appear on every branch agenda within the next week or so, and the appeal of the National Executive Council should secure a prompt and enthusiastic response.

In this connection there is work waiting to be handled by the District Committees and the Sectional and Professional Societies.

Local Effort Needed

District Committees have been asked to accept responsibility for the organisation of the campaign amongst the branches and the local authorities in their respective areas; to consider the grouping of the proposed Provincial Council areas and keep the National Executive Council advised on the progress that is made.

Sectional and Professional Societies represented on the Standing Joint Committee of N.A.L.G.O. have been asked to endorse officially the aims of the Association and to enlist the active sup-

port of the members through the channels of the local branches.

Ministerial Recommendation

The Association indicated the necessity for Whitley Council machinery in its Memorandum to the Ray Committee, copies of which were furnished to the Ministry of Health. In Circular 1222 the Minister suggested that there should be consultation between the local authorities and staffs on the question of salary reductions, but in Circular 1311 of March 22, 1933, dealing with the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Local Expenditure ("Ray" Report) we have a definite suggestion of consultation on a wider basis between the central organisations of authorities and officials. If this is desirable on one subject, it is equally so on others. A "service" opinion, for the guidance of the government departments, the local authorities and the officials alike,

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11th ANNUAL REUNION
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at 7 p.m.
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Branch Secretaries, or from—
Mr. W. H. Lakin,
Town Hall, Haverstock Hill, N.W.3

is urgently required to deal with other matters, e.g. (a) superannuation; (b) the recommendations of the Ministry of Health in regard to publicity on salaries and promotions, and the adoption by local authorities of definite scales of salaries; (c) the forthcoming Report of the Departmental Committee on the qualifications, recruitment, training and promotion of local government officers, and (d) research and the compilation of statistics; questions that can be dealt with satisfactorily only after full and free discussion by representatives of the local authorities and the staffs.

The following observation of the Ministry of Health in Circular 1311, applies with equal force if the "dissatisfaction and even discontent" to which he refers is to be obviated: "He," the Minister, "thinks that in the action which local authorities take on this part of the Report of the Committee on Local Expenditure, it is eminently desirable that the fullest possible use should be made of the method of consultation with the officials commended in the circular of September 11, whether locally, or, as is even more desirable to attain some measure of uniformity of action, centrally, as, for example, by the use of the central associations of local authorities, or some special committee of those associations, to confer with central organisations of the local officials."

Departmental Committee's Report

The report of the Departmental Committee on the qualifications, recruitment, training and promotion of local government officers will be available later in the year. Will it make a similar, or even more authoritative, recommendation to the two sides to get together *and on a permanent basis with terms of reference to cover all service questions?*

NALGO MOTORISTS' CLUB

A motoring club is to be formed by members of the National Association of Local Government Officers in the Metropolitan area. A Committee has already been appointed, and a full meeting of those interested is to be held shortly to complete the arrangements.

Local Government officers' clubs for aviation, badminton, billiards and snooker, bowls, bridge, chess, cricket, football, golf, lawn tennis, rifle shooting, road walking, swimming, table tennis, and whist already exist in the London area.

The first run will be held on Sunday, April 9. Members attending will meet at The Parade, Crystal Palace, at 3 p.m. Tea will be taken at the "Old Barn," Hildenborough, Kent (near Tonbridge on the Sevenoaks-Hastings Road). Full particulars will be forwarded, on request, by the Hon. Secretary, W. A. Webb, Rates Dept., Town Hall, Chelsea.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

With the hope of encouraging a frank interchange of views on subjects bearing on the work of readers and upon questions of national moment, the Editor has allocated this space for letters from the local government officers. Letters, which should be addressed

The Editor,

"Local Government Service"
3/4 Clement's Inn, Strand,
London, W.C.2

must be received on, or before, 15th of the month to ensure publication in the current issue.

The Editor will not hold himself responsible for the views expressed by the writers.

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

To the Editor,
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—I was interested to read in the March issue of your interesting journal, under "Notes of the Month," the reference to Sir Ernest Benn's recent address following a lunch of the London members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, and would like to suggest that Sir Ernest's reference to the public expenditure during the thousand years to the death of Queen Victoria does not really help us to have a true perspective of the situation. It does seem rather to suggest that Sir Ernest has got little further than the event named, or that he has, somehow, overlooked for the moment, much that has occurred since. Lapse of memory? Possibly, but I think not in the present case. At any rate, much has happened in recent years; and he may have heard of a "great war," and this may account for much that he complains of. It is, I suggest, futile for him to speak as he does, without going much deeper.

As to Sir Ernest's main contention, in comparing "public" and "private" expenditure, I am wondering where he finds any real foundation for this statement, viz: "Let the Government do it, let some public authority do it, then the mentality, the approach to the problem, changes completely?" I challenge this statement; especially in the sense in which Sir Ernest evidently intends it to be taken. So far as individuals are concerned, the spender in "private" life is quite as likely to be the economiser in "public" life; and, as for the community generally, they are just as likely to be influenced by the "economy" appeal in "public" affairs, as they are to ignore it in "private" affairs. His suggestion that "public" money is almost inevitably squandered, and "private" money wisely spent, is refuted by the facts. Such sweeping generalities disregard the facts. He claims he is not a politician; but, at least, he seems to use, with some ease, much of the current political thought and language.

I wonder if Sir Ernest would like to address a northern audience—not on "economy," a vague notion in these days—but on "municipal administration and finance," giving details of their various municipal undertakings, and showing how "wasteful" and "disastrous" has been the result of the work of their public bodies. Let him go, say, to Birmingham, Leeds—dare I suggest Glasgow—and invite discussion to follow his address. Really, I think I have hardly discovered greater extravagance, "public" or "private," than is to be found in some of Sir Ernest's statements.

As for Government expenditure, in particular, may I venture to suggest that it might be well if Sir Ernest, and those who think with him, would occasionally identify themselves with the Government, or the State, instead of treating it as a thing apart—a self-created

monster, designed to swallow everything that comes in its path. If Sir Ernest looks carefully at the national accounts he will soon discover the reason for half of the expenditure. Wars have always been costly; and preparation for war is only a little less so. Granted that "waste" may occur in "public," as in "private," expenditure; the great questions of the public services must be faced squarely. Public health, education, transport, power, lighting, police, poor law, pensions, tax administration (including customs and excise), postal facilities, local government, all involve "public" expenditure, and the raising of the necessary revenue. If I were to suggest an alternative, Sir Ernest would probably criticize it as vigorously as he criticizes present methods.

I am glad you have taken the opportunity of commenting on the address and perhaps you would be glad to know that all chartered accountants do not applaud statements such as Sir Ernest Benn ventured to make.

I am, sir,

Yours faithfully,

T. WATSON COLLIN.

London, March 6, 1933.

"THE ECONOMICS OF NALGO"

To the Editor,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—We have heard "Philip" of Clydebank and hearkened. It is so refreshing to hear a note of sanity struck in these days of "Catchphrase" politics and charlatan appeals to "A spirit of sacrifice by all." It appears that only in Clydebank does the fresh wind of common-sense again blow. Here in Manchester the aspect is gloomy. The N.A.L.G.O.'s heroic effort to assure the Government of its passionate belief in economy cuts as a means towards national rehabilitation seems to have left a permanent legacy of pin-pricks.

One morning we awoke to find ourselves under the economy axe. It was a principle accepted from above, but absolutely unconvinced at by those below. We were hardly convinced by the harrowing description of town clerks and departmental heads staggering under the same iniquitous burden as their less remunerated brethren. We do not, for one moment, assume that "Philip," of Clydebank, writes with the plenary powers of the town clerk of that reputable place.

Economia, like a forest fire, is hard to check. Its army is potent if scarcely legionary. It resides in high places. It can enlist the fervour of the scribes and prosecutes its fever through all the channels of our daily life. And, analysed, it is not so high-minded, so disinterested as our N.A.L.G.O. Executive, presumably, thinks. Economy generally has a tendency to dip too freely in the pockets of the wage earner and not half so much into the coffers of the bond-holder and the banker.

A searchlight on the N.A.L.G.O. reveals the rents and ravages occasioned by its patchwork composite character. An organisation is cemented by interests which are identical. A common purpose; a co-operative objective; an ideal, jointly held and having its effective origin in a reasonable similarity of economic tenure! These functions establish an organisation and lacking them, the most euphemistic and grandiloquent titles can only serve to mask a conflicting area of differing opinions and differing attitudes.

N.A.L.G.O. exemplifies this amorphous aggregate. No problem can expect a unified confrontation by N.A.L.G.O. Some flirt with the National Government, others revere it, others excrete it. Economy captivates one, appears as a stern necessity to others and appalls a few; of whom Mr. Philip of Clydebank appears as a most eloquent pleader.

Where in heaven are we! We are hydra-headed, but with each head thinking differently, and consequently nothing being done. Of our members, 69 per cent are paid less than £250 a year. It may be ironical, but it is certainly

galling to know that these, also, came under the sweep of the economy axe. And in the light of recent happenings, is not this campaign but a prelude to the more drastic and permanent attack on wage and salary conditions throughout the country? London—Manchester—Clydebank—next?

Where are we N.A.L.G.O.? Time to cease running with the hares and hunting with the hounds! The 69 per cent are getting restive. The hoary myth of N.A.L.G.O.'s aloofness from political contingencies is about exploded. On the question of Economy the Nation is divided. Are we to lackey to a Government that places battleships before babies? Or shall we take courage from a just estimate of the madness and criminality of this Economania and say a definite "no" to any further attempt at service attrition?

We thank Clydebank for its timely warning!

We are, sir,

Yours faithfully

"FOUR MANCHESTER MEMBERS."

Manchester. March 15, 1933.

To the Editor,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—"Philip" has rendered a service to our Association by his letter in this month's issue. We teach "Economics" under the auspices of the N.C.I., and, therefore, carry a very heavy responsibility because of our relationship to the public service and interest. So far as my observation serves me, the N.C.I. teaches the "Economics" of private enterprise, which are the antithesis of public service; the former is organised and managed in order to provide dividends for the shareholder, the latter to provide facilities and service in the general public interest. The motive of our "business" is service, the motive of the "business" organisations, whose representatives control our public authorities, is gain, and these interests are by no means synonymous.

I am convinced that the property relations in existence to-day are not Divine ordinations. Private property is not a "law of nature"; and a dividend which is the result of our social inheritance, plus the organisation of real capital and labour, is not a "natural right." Change is absolutely essential in our Economic outlook. "The economics of feudal England are not the same as the economics of society as we know it, nor are the latter the same as the economics of a collectivist society." Put another way, that means, the economics of private enterprise are not the same as the economics of the public service.

The state of the world to-day displays private enterprise now as a ghastly failure for co-ordinating, regulating, and controlling industry and commerce. When the present economy ramp started, public officials, in the words of W. A. Robson, offered "voluntary sacrifice to the idol of Contractionism," instead of privately and publicly putting forward the plain economic truth that *bad trade*, though an immediate effect of the loss of markets, is ultimately caused by the uneconomic efforts of private enterprise which organises industry and commerce for private gain instead of the public weal.

Trade cannot be expanded by contracting the purchasing power of the vast majority of its customers, the wage-earning and salaried classes of the community. Private enterprise has reached the stage in its evolution whereby it is destroying itself by operating the law of diminishing return. In destroying itself it may destroy us, so why should we continue the game of make believe by propagating economics which are unsuited for a public service? That there are certain fundamental similarities I don't deny, but there are also fundamental differences which are ignored altogether.

I am, sir,

Yours faithfully,

"Jock."

Dundee, March 14, 1933.

**The Economics of Private Enterprise," (Pitmans).

(Other letters on page 105)



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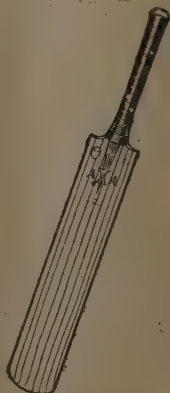
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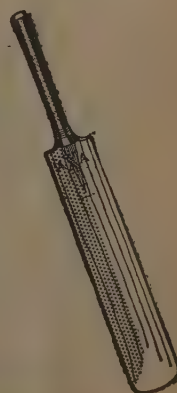
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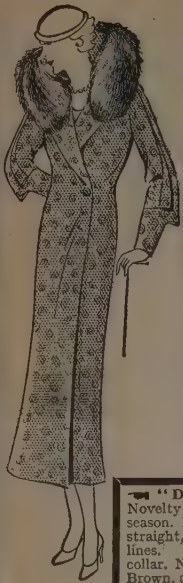
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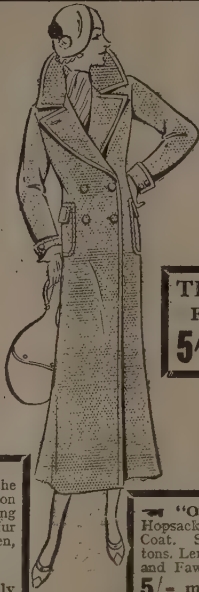


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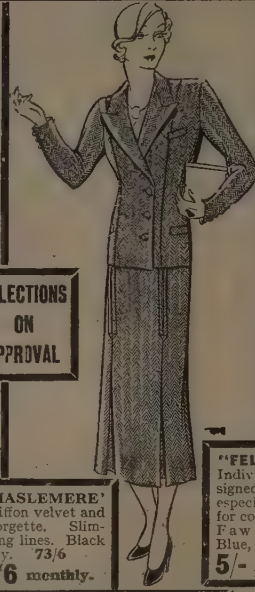
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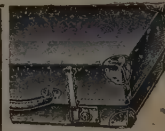
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from page 102)

OFFICIAL JOURNAL

To the Editor,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

SIR,—Of course, LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE could be improved! I agree with your Glasgow reader that it is by no means a powerful organ. It never will be powerful or popular until it interests and encourages the majority of its 69,000 (nominal) readers. And it will never interest the majority of N.A.L.G.O. members until a proper balance of contents is obtained.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE has always suffered from a lopsided scale of news values; it has always wasted space prodigally on matters of small general interest, and given too little space to subjects of popular appeal. Far too much space is given to the proceedings of the N.E.C. for one thing, and there is too much puffing of sidelines—cruises, etc.—in literary pages. In recent issues some improvement has been made, but still far too little is printed on service conditions, salaries, etc.

The average member is not a town clerk, but he would agree with the constant publication of articles solely for chief officers if these were counterbalanced by articles of interest to the rank and file. A series of straightforward articles on service conditions throughout the country would be immensely popular.

Easily the best feature of recent issues has been the "Notes of the Month," which do show some vision, courage, and humour. The worst, by far, has been the "funny" stuff by Touché.

When will it be generally realised that, although the Association is making great national strides, its official magazine hobbles far behind, out of date, dull, and amateurish as a parish magazine?

I am, sir,

Yours faithfully,

A. F. HUTT,

Editor, Manchester Guild Journal.

College of Technology, Manchester. March 3, 1933.

To the Editor,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—I entirely agree with the letter you publish from "Reader," adding, at the same time, that authoritative articles such as those of Dr. Robson should be like Caesar's wife.

I am, sir,

Yours faithfully,

A. W. B. ALLEN.

Council Offices, Sidcup, Kent. March 3, 1933.

To the Editor,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—I support "Reader's" suggestion that the magazine would have a wider appeal if its contents were not almost wholly confined to dry-as-dust reports. Crossword puzzles, chess problems, and bridge articles appeal to almost every reader, and I regret to see that these have been missing since last December. I hope to see them restored. While these are auxiliary to the main purpose, members are more likely to see and read the articles if their interest is first captured.

I am, sir,

Yours faithfully,

W. T. PORT.

("Checkers.")

Blackhill House, Riddrie, Glasgow, E.1.
March 7, 1933.

SCIENCE OF CO-ORDINATION

To the Editor,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—I was greatly interested to read the article by Mr. Roberts on the "Science of Co-ordination," but I must confess that I am unable to agree with him on several points.

For instance, he claims that "there is only one department which is invariably the servant of every Committee, and that is the Town Clerk's." This is no doubt true in so far as the

(Continued in lower half of next col.)

N.A.L.G.O. IN SCOTLAND

MARCH MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH COUNCIL

THE Scottish Council meeting was held on Saturday, March 11. Mr. Hugh Begg, who presided, submitted the report of the Executive Committee, contained in a minute which had been circulated previous to the meeting. The minute dealt chiefly with the proposed National Minimum Scales, a number of amendments to which were suggested providing that the new entrant would start at a lower figure and receive a substantial increase at the end of a four-years' apprenticeship rather than receive the same yearly increments right through the grade. The Council objected to the overlapping proposed in the scales. The branches, it was thought, should, when submitting the scales to a Council, be at liberty to vary them to suit local conditions. Mr. Borland submitted three minutes of the Law & Parliamentary Committee embodying decisions taken with regard to one or two difficult questions either before the Court, or to be submitted for the opinion of the Court. On the question of the right to payment of compensation awarded under the Act of 1926, counsel's opinion had been taken.

Mr. John Campbell submitted the Report of the Education Committee, detailing the arrangements for the Scottish Summer School to be held in St. Andrews for the week beginning Saturday, June 24. (See special reference to the Summer Schools on page 97.)

The Poor Law Diploma Examinations Board have been approached with the suggestion that they should make their General Knowledge Examination applicable to all entrants to the Local Government Service, and this suggestion is being further considered.

Regarding propaganda, Mr. Duncan Galbraith submitted the report of his Committee. Meetings, he stated, had been held in Greenock, Gourock and Port Glasgow and in Forfarshire within the past few weeks, and generally the results had been satisfactory. There was a prospect of new branches being

formed in Port Glasgow and in Forfarshire. Mr. S. H. Brodie, for the Sports Committee, recommended that the next Sports Day be held on September 16 at Bridge of Allan. The Secretary reported that the Council had affiliated to the Scottish Youth Hostels' Association. Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen branches have been asked to appoint representatives to the local Committees of that Association. Mr. William Borland has been appointed to the Executive. After the meeting, Glasgow branch very kindly entertained the representatives to an excellent high tea.

Lanarkshire

For the past few weeks Lanarkshire has been the storm centre in Scotland, and so long as the County Council allows the present chaotic position to continue, there must inevitably be unrest amongst the staffs. It is extraordinary how certain influential members of the Council are prepared to let matters drift. The Council took over a very large number of officials and staffs from the District Committees and the Parish Councils, all of whom were on conditions of service which varied considerably. Some had superannuation rights and others had not; some were on Scales of Salary while others were not. Other County Councils were faced with similar difficulties, but a genuine effort has been made to secure some sort of uniformity. Lanarkshire, despite the best advice from their much respected County Clerk, are at sixes and sevens; everyone on the staff is disgruntled. Each is dissatisfied with his prospects and that he is being unjustly treated. The Branch has applied for all junior members of the staff to be put on grades and, on March 15, the D.O.S. appeared before the Committee in support of the application. The Committee decided to adjourn consideration to a future meeting.

Hamilton Town Council still have the question of salary cuts before them. The D.O.S. was in attendance at the public meeting of the Council, but it was decided to hear him at a subsequent special meeting.

Edinburgh Provisional Order

In last month's issue it was reported that a petition against the Edinburgh Provisional Order had been lodged, but that efforts were being made to effect a settlement with the Corporation on the points at issue. The matter is now the subject of correspondence between the Parliamentary agents of the Corporation and of the Association. The chief point at issue concerns the right of an official to dismiss a member of the staff, and we are arranging that the words "provided the employee shall have a right of appeal to the appropriate Committee." In this way, it is believed the interests of members will be sufficiently protected. Cases of dismissal are very rare indeed, but it is felt to be only right that every officer should have a right of appeal against any such action of his chief.

Presentation to Mr. Robert Walls

At the annual dinner of Edinburgh Branch held on February 17, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Thomas Bishop, Mr. Robert Walls was presented with handsome gifts on his retirement from the Service. Mr. Walls' connection with the Branch, first as Secretary, and later as Chairman of the Executive—a period of nineteen years—has been significant for a great deal of quiet, but effective, work which has resulted in very substantial benefits to his colleagues. In asking Mr. Walls' acceptance of two easy chairs and a standard lamp, the Chairman expressed the good wishes of them all to their colleague in his retirement. Mr. Walls expressed his thanks for the gifts, and particularly for the support given him by the members of the Executive while he held office. Sir Andrew Grierson, the Town Clerk, and Mr. Mortimer, the District Secretary, and others took the opportunity of referring to Mr. Walls' good work.

I am, sir,

Yours faithfully, "ADMIN."

"HURRAH for a N.A.L.G.O. HOLIDAY!"

THIS is the title of an extremely bright and interesting brochure which has recently been published describing the facilities which the Association have made for Bungalow Camping Holidays. For the past two seasons many members have spent delightful holidays at Croyde Bay Camp, North Devon, and a visit to the recent re-union in London, attended by nearly 600, gave an idea of the wonderful spirit which exists amongst the campers. It is not to be wondered that the Camp has become too popular and cannot accommodate all those members and their friends whose imagination has been captured by this type of holiday.

Many have already booked for their third consecutive holiday at Croyde Bay and the total number of bookings received so early in the season is remarkable.

There will be no disappointments this year as the Association is opening another Camp on July 1 at Cayton Bay, near Scarborough—one of the finest spots on the north-east coast. It will be the most modern camp of its kind in the kingdom, and is intended to meet the demands of the northern members, although it is already attracting much southern attention.

TERMS AT BOTH CAMPS

	Per Week
	£ s. d.
April and May ..	2 2 0
June and September ..	2 5 0
July and August ..	2 7 6

CHILDREN

In arms (cot) ..	10 0
1 to 4 years (cot) ..	1 0 0
Over 4 to 10 years ..	1 5 0
Over 10 to 15 years ..	1 12 6

There is no holiday like one spent in this type of camp. It should not be confused with the old-fashioned idea of camping—tents, hard beds (sometimes wet), badly cooked meals, unsanitary conditions, and generally rough and ready. The bungalows at the Association's camps are warm, weatherproof, have comfortable beds and wash-basins with running water. There is a modern system of drainage and adequate lavatory accommodation. The food is of the best, cooked by capable chefs, and served tastefully, and in pleasant surroundings. Each Camp has its putting course, tennis court, billiards room, ping-pong tables, card or rest room, and a crown bowling green is being laid at Cayton Bay. Sports, bathing parades, whist drives, and dances are organised, and there need not be a dull moment.

The great attraction is the free and easy and healthy life. The person who likes to don a tennis shirt and shorts from the first to the last day, is in his, or her, element; in fact, if a "dress up for dinner" kind of holiday is wanted, do not go to a N.A.L.G.O. camp. It is ideal for the kiddies and carefree for the adults. Briefly, it is the best possible and cheapest holiday obtainable and is thoroughly recommended.

There is still plenty of accommodation available and all bookings should be sent to N.A.L.G.O., 24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

A HOLIDAY AFLOAT

Nearly one-half of the passenger accommodation of the s.s. *Avoceta* (3,500 tons), which N.A.L.G.O. has chartered for its fifteenth annual sea cruise has already been booked. The boat does not sail from Liverpool until Saturday, July 29, but so popular has this cruise become that early booking is essential. This year a still better itinerary has been arranged and visits will be paid to Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Madeira, and Canary Islands.

No increase has been made in the fare, and at the inclusive cost of £23 for 22 days' cruising, this is the cheapest and best holiday it is possible

to imagine. The cruise has become an institution and is accounted by many former passengers as one of their most pleasant experiences.

ITINERARY:

Sat., July 29, 1.30 p.m.	Leave LIVERPOOL
Tues., August 1	At CORUNNA
Thurs., " 3	At LISBON
Sat., " 5	At CASABLANCA
Tues., " 8	At MADEIRA
Thurs., " 10	At LAS PALMAS
Fri., " 11	At OROTAVA
Sat., " 12	At SANTA CRUZ
Sun., " 13	At LAS PALMAS
Sun., " 20	Due back LIVERPOOL

Members who are looking for the ideal holiday at a reasonable price must not miss this opportunity. There is nothing unpatriotic in cruising in a British ship, and at just over one pound per day, it is almost an economy. No longer is it necessary to contend with the vagaries of the English climate.

All those who are fond of happy company, sunshine in abundance, bracing sea air, and want a "holiday of a life-time," should communicate with N.A.L.G.O., 24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1, and book for this cruise immediately.

RECOMMENDED

HOLIDAY ADDRESSES

The N.A.L.G.O. Holiday Guide is crowded with addresses of hotels, boarding houses, and apartments which have been tried and found satisfactory by members of the Association. The 1933 issue is now ready and is better and brighter than ever before. It includes many holiday ideas which will be most valuable. The price is 3d., and to save incurring postage, which is 4d. on a single copy, members should order through their Branch Secretaries. Alternatively, copies can be obtained from the printers: Messrs. Rolt & Sons, 17-18 Railway Approach, London Bridge, S.E.

On page 76 of the Guide, Minehead is described as being an inland resort in Sussex and on the Southern Railway. Actually, of course, it is a seaside resort in Somerset and on the Great Western Railway. With this one exception, a remarkable degree of accuracy has been secured by the compilers.

**SPECIAL OFFER OF
TEA
AT WHOLESALE PRICES
AND RELATIVE BUDGET
COMMENTS: See page 85.**

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An Offer Worth **COUPON** Privileges to
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Official Address _____

(in full) _____

This Coupon may be posted in envelope (unsealed) under one halfpenny stamp.

BOOK REVIEWS

LAND AND LABOUR IN CHINA. R. H. Tawney.
George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., Museum
Street, W.C.1. Price 7s. 6d. net.

SINO-JAPANESE affairs are very much in the limelight to-day, and this book is, therefore, of much greater interest than it might have been had China not been "in the news." The book, graphically describing the habits of the Chinese workers, is well worth reading, and more because it presents an aspect of this ancient race which is so very rarely depicted. The problems enumerated by Professor Tawney are complex, in so far as they relate to a people whose history was old before the West was born; whose lives are regulated by tradition, and whose problems have been accentuated by recent invasions by Western peoples with the introduction of machinery in much the same way as it was introduced into our existing economic system during the Industrial Revolution and who are, moreover, always subject to internal and external military oppression.

Here is a country with a population of approximately 450,000,000, of whom 75 per cent. are farmers and agriculturalists, living in 10,000 villages, and in 1,000,000 hamlets, cultivating just over 200,000,000 acres of land, unable to obtain the maximum advantage from their farms, without roads, railways, and other advantages which we deem necessary to the conduct of business, therefore at the mercy of the entrepreneur for the prices they receive for what small margin of produce they might be able to dispose of, underfed, badly housed, liable to be plunged into starvation, owing either to flood or drought, hedged in, on the one hand, by the traditions of the patriarchal family and of the distribution of property on the death of the owner, or tenant, and, on the other, to the restrictions placed upon their holdings by the landlords. Superimposed upon these fundamental difficulties is the dominance of petty militarists, grasping moneylenders, corrupt officials, and ravaging bandits, to all of whom the peasants are good sport.

Other factors which contribute to the misery of these patient people bear remarkable similarity to Western conditions immediately prior to the Industrial Revolution, yet the solutions which we have found will not, of themselves, solve the problems of China. The greatest difficulty to contend with is the Chinese mind. It has accepted as permanent the conditions of life which were extant prior to the Roman invasion of Britain. This is clearly demonstrated in the urban areas, where, side by side with the most up-to-date machinery which the West has been able to install along the coast of China, the workers may be seen conducting their own trades—weaving, spinning, and boot-making—by hand, still adhering to the tradition of the patriarchal family by which three generations, augmented by other relatives, will live together as an economic unit.

The final chapter, "Politics and Education," is the author's interpretation of the "what might be." Primary education of the people is a necessity, as yet not realized, and from this must be built up a complete system of co-ordinated effort. From the point of view of practical politics and the future stability of China, almost the whole of its present chaotic, but threadbare, systems must be reorganised and as a first step towards this end, a National Economic Council has recently been constituted. Professor Tawney suggests that the whole of the resources of the League of Nations should be placed at the disposal of China, in order that she may build up, step by step, a system on the lines of our own, but without its many attendant disadvantages and modified to suit local environment.

This book can be recommended to the student of foreign affairs who is desirous of improving his knowledge of the way in which the other half of the world lives.

D. J. P.

CAMPERS AND CRUISERS

HAPPY REUNION IN LONDON

The outstanding success which attended the Reunion of Croyde Bay Campers and Canary Island Cruisers, held on the evening of Friday, March 3, fully justified the confidence of Headquarters in engaging the capacious Portman Rooms, Baker Street, London, for the purpose. A happy company of some 600 assembled, and, there is no doubt, recaptured the holiday spirit for the evening, bringing into prominence the pleasant anticipation of forthcoming holidays. It was not a question of "Where are you going for your holidays this year," but "See you at Croyde" or "What about trying Cayton this year?" Delightful people, these N.A.L.G.O. folk!

Messrs. Foulger (Greenwich) and Ready (East Ham), whom many remembered as chairmen on different occasions of the Croyde Bay Camp Committees, Mr. Lakin, the Hon. Secretary of the Metropolitan District Committee, and Dr. Scrase, who was the ship's doctor on the 1931 Canary Islands cruise, were, with the staff of Headquarters, responsible for the admirable arrangements; dancing proceeding in two halls to the delightful music of H. Morley's bands.

One Big Sigh

At the hour of 9 o'clock the whole company gathered round the camp fire and sang, under the direction of Mr. Foulger, many of the camp favourites, after which Mr. Ready gave a clever blackboard turn. This was followed by the restoration to their owners, in traditional Croyde manner, of a surprisingly large number of articles of lost (?) property.

Later in the evening Mr. Auger (National Executive Council), who has always taken a prominent part in regard to N.A.L.G.O. camps, expressed the appreciation of the N.E.C. to those who had acted as M.C.s, and took the opportunity of referring to the new Cayton Bay camp, which, he stated, would represent the very last word in such enterprises. "Goodnight Campers," was sung, followed by the "Stein Song," and "Auld Lang Syne," and so to a close. Renewed friendships speedily begat wider friendships, and the whole great gathering became welded in one inspiring atmosphere of the happiest relationship.

NORTH-WESTERN BILLIARDS

Blackburn (the holders) and Manchester had comfortable wins over Liverpool and Stretford respectively, in the semi-finals of the North-Western Billiards Competition, and in the final Blackburn held the trophy with a win by 1,081-923.

In the individual championship Mr. Fowler, of Blackburn (holder), began in fine style, and his first nine visits produced 126 points, including breaks of 33, 44, and 37, whilst his opponent was scoring but 21. The challenger then made excellent headway after a moderate start and finished up 40 to the good.

OBITUARY

Mr. Harry Kniveton, Collector on the staff of the Leigh Borough Treasurer for the past 44 years. A very popular official.

Mr. John G. Llewellyn, Rating and Valuation Officer to the Penarth District Council, of Grove Place, for the past thirty years, having succeeded his father, the late Mr. Jenkyn Llewellyn, whose assistant he had been for twenty years previous. Greatly revered among his colleagues.

Mr. Thomas Mitchell, Senior Sanitary Inspector of the Paddington Borough Council. Held the position of sanitary inspector for 34 years, and in June next would have reached the age for retirement. For many years Secretary of the Study Circle of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association for London, and an active member of the Paddington Branch and formerly the Executive Committee of N.A.L.G.O.

THE BRIDGE FORUM

By NEVILLE HOBSON

THE circumstances under which an opening bid of One of a suit or One No Trump can be made have already been outlined, and the partner's obligations must now be considered.

Share of Tricks

It is important to bear in mind at the outset the "Rule of Eight," which establishes that about 8 of the 13 tricks made in a game are obtained by Honours (4 by Aces and about 4 with other Honour cards). The total Honour Tricks are, therefore, regarded as about 8, so that each player's average share of these is 2.

With a count of 4 Honour Tricks (which were fully explained in the last article) between the two hands, the declarer should generally make the odd trick, as—though he may only have half the total Honour Tricks—he has the following advantages:—

- The opponents have to lead before they see Dummy;
- The declarer sees 26 cards;
- He plays the two hands in the Contract of his own choice (which should ensure for him some degree of command in Trumps)

Minimum Response

As an opening bid of One can be made if holding (1) a biddable suit and (2) 2½ Honour Tricks altogether, the partner is entitled to keep the bidding open if he holds a minimum of 1½ Honour Tricks; and the importance of making a response on such a holding arises from the fact that the opponent may hold additional Honour Tricks which have not been disclosed by his first bid, and this is the only way he can proceed to develop the combined hands.

Manning Foster's Summary

Mr. A. E. Manning Foster, in his excellent little "Baby Contract Book," summarises a player's duties after an initial bid by his partner as follows:—

After an initial bid of One of a suit and a Pass by the second hand, Partner should say either—

- No Bid—if he holds a hand containing less than 1½ Quick Tricks (which is a similar term to "Honour Tricks") and no sound bid himself.
- Bid his own hand—if he has a sound call.
- Raise Partner's bid to 2—if he holds 3 of

his suit (headed by a Queen) or 4 small ones, together with 4 probable Playing Tricks.

(4) Give Jump Raise—if he holds a better hand and can invite partner to bid game.

(5) Take out into No Trumps—if holding little support in suit bid but a good all-round hand.

Take Out on Weakness

It must be emphasised that under no circumstances must there be a take out on weakness in Contract. Bids of any kind must indicate either Honour Trick or Playing Trick values.

"Playing" Tricks

These must be distinguished from "Honour" Tricks, as—if the combined hands are to be played in a favourable trump suit—this will have the effect of reducing to a minimum the risk of Honour Cards being trumped by the opponents, so that greater value can be attached to the outside Honours.

It has been explained that—for the purpose of an Initial call—A, K, Q or even A, K, Q, J can only be regarded as 2 Honour Tricks, but such a holding, when played in conjunction with a command Trump suit, is worth 3 or 4 Playing Tricks, as the case may be. In the same way, a short suit, in conjunction with 3 or 4 trumps, has a marked playing value, and the appropriate text books should be consulted to indicate the valuation usually adopted in these circumstances.

Ruffing Tricks

General experience in Auction should, however, enable a player to sense the value of a hand which is short-suited, provided the trump holding is satisfactory.

For example, suppose your partner opens with a bid of One Spade and you hold:—

♠ K, x, x, x, x. ♥ x, x, x, x.
♦ J, 10, x. ♣ x.

this should enable your partner to utilise one or two of the Spades in trumping Clubs and so reduce the defensive value of any high Clubs in the opponents' hands.

It will be necessary to defer further consideration of these matters until next month, but it should again be emphasised that a suitable small textbook should be consulted and various recommendations in this connection have been made. The next steps are practice—practice—practice!!!

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In the black screw cap bottle. 9d., 1/2, 1/6 and 2/6.
The County Perfumery Co., Bradford St., Birmingham.

SALARY CUTS TERMINATED

The Lancashire and Cheshire Whitley Council has decided to make a restoration of 50 per cent. of the cut made in 1931 on all salaries of municipal officers in the two counties under £250. The settlement, it is stated, will affect 20,000 officers. The desirability or otherwise of salary reductions being restored or modified in October is to be investigated by a committee, who will make an early report.

Reductions made in the salaries of officials of the Portsmouth Corporation a year ago are to be restored. East Ham Town Council have also decided to terminate the cuts in officials' salaries introduced as an economy measure; the saving had amounted to £3,450 in the year. After allowing for the restoration of the officials' full salaries and providing for an increase in the tramway deficiency from £10,712 to £16,000, it was possible to levy a rate of 8s. 6d. in the pound, the same as for the present half-year.

Sunderland Town Council have decided to call a conference of representatives of county borough and borough Councils in Northumberland and Durham to consider the desirability of setting up a Whitley Council. Local Joint Committees have recently been formed at Newcastle-under-Lyme and at Barry.

Protests against "economics" by wage cutting, dismissing employees, and suspending work schemes were made at the Birkenhead Town Council budget meeting.

BRANCH AND DISTRICT NEWS

ABERDARE DINNER

A successful annual dinner was held at the Memorial Hall, Aberdare, on March 3. The President of the Aberdare Branch, Mr. W. R. Morgan, M.B.E., Clerk of the Council, was in the chair, Mr. G. H. Hall, M.P., Mr. D. Tyssul Davies, J.P., Chairman of the Council, and Mr. Godfrey Turner, Chairman of the District Committee, and several members of the Mountain Ash and Glamorgan County Council Branches being numbered among the guests.

Mr. Thomas Botting, Director of Education, congratulated the Branch upon its 100 per cent. membership, and in this he was supported by Mr. G. Hall, who said he was delighted that local government officers were building up such a great organisation.

ACTON BRANCH

A social evening and games tournament, to which the members of the Ealing Branch of N.A.L.G.O. were invited, was held at the Municipal Offices, Acton, on February 22. About 130 members and friends attended, billiards, snooker, bridge, whist, cribbage, chess, draughts, darts, and table tennis providing a variable fare. The tournament was won by Acton by seven events to three.

BLACKPOOL ANNIVERSARY

The twenty-fifth anniversary dinner of the Blackpool Branch was held in the Baronial Hall of the Winter Gardens on Monday, February 20, 1933. Mr. Charles Furness, M.I.E.E., Borough Electrical Engineer and president of the Branch, presided, supported by the Mayor (Alderman T. Fenton) and members of the Corporation, Mr. J. W. Wilkinson, Deputy Town Clerk of Southport (chairman of the Lincs. and Ches. Whitley Council), Mr. F. J. Willett, chairman of the National Executive Council of N.A.L.G.O., and Major Simonds, legal secretary of N.A.L.G.O.

Councillor W. R. Duckworth, J.P., one of the speakers, said the branch afforded a great opportunity for the head officials and staffs to co-operate towards better and higher results in municipal service.

Mr. J. W. Wilkinson referred to Blackpool's phenomenal progress and attributed much of this to the loyal service of the officials. Mr. D. L. Harbottle, L.L.B., Town Clerk, associated himself with this remark. Congratulations were showered upon the branch, having attained its twenty-fifth birthday. "The more I see of public life, local or national, the more esteem I have for public officials," declared Alderman Potter.

CANNOCK GAMES

On February 15 the Electricity Department at Cannock played the rest of the Branch at billiards and snooker, the former winning after keen games. Further matches have been arranged with local teams and with Branches in the vicinity. Profits from the Branch are being divided between the Sports and Social Committee—which was responsible for the arrangements—and the B. & O. Fund.

DARWEN HELP FOR B. & O.

As a result of a recent effort, the B. & O. Fund and the Mayor of Darwen's Clog Fund each benefit to the extent of £3 3s. This was the first social event to be held by the branch for some years, and the newly formed Social Committee were distinctly successful in promoting what was considered to be the most enjoyable whist drives and dances held in the town this season.

Their next effort is to be in the magnificent hall in the town's new baths, opened on March 29.

DEWSBURY REVIVAL

The Dewsbury Branch, which for some time has been somewhat apathetic, has been reformed and is now practically 100 per cent. strong. Mr. T. H. Bottomley, who did such excellent work as secretary of the Keighley Branch, and who

was transferred some time ago to Dewsbury, has been appointed honorary secretary, and Mr. Banham, honorary treasurer.

BALLROOM EFFORT FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

A commendable effort was made by the Gillingham Branch of N.A.L.G.O. on behalf of the local Unemployment Relief Fund, which is being organised by the Mayor, Alderman S. O. Summers. A dance realised a sum of £24 for this deserving cause.

GENERAL SECRETARY AT HUDDERSFIELD

Mr. J. Greenwood presided over the annual dinner of the Huddersfield Branch, which was attended by nearly 200 members. The president was supported by the Mayor (Alderman T. Shires, J.P.), Alderman Halstead, and other members of the Council.

Mr. Hill, the General Secretary of the Association, was present and emphasized the value and importance of Public Administration. Mr. A. G. Bolton, honorary secretary of the Yorkshire District Committee, proposed the toast of "The Huddersfield Corporation," and referred to the progressive outlook of the Council and the happy relations which exist between the Council and the staff.

LICHFIELD ANNUAL MEETING

At the third annual meeting of the Lichfield Branch highly satisfactory accounts and reports for the year were presented. The following officers were re-elected: President and chairman, Mr. T. Moseley; vice-president, Mr. Norman Auty; honorary treasurer, Mr. G. K. Pullen; honorary secretary, Mr. S. M. Collins.

Organised by the Lichfield Branch and held in the Guildhall on February 17, Lichfield Branch dance was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress (Alderman W. A. and Miss A. Wood), the Town Clerk (Mr. W. Brockson), the president (Mr. T. Moseley), and vice-president (Mr. Norman Auty), and the D.S. (Mr. J. E. N. Davis). A highly commendable effort!

OXFORD CITY AND COUNTY

A very successful innovation at Oxford was a whist drive and dance held jointly by the City and County Branches in conjunction at the Carfax Assembly Rooms on March 1. The evening forged yet another link in a chain of events which are bringing the two branches together in friendly co-operation and augurs well for their future relationship.

The organisers were Messrs. A. N. A. Baker and A. E. Trickett (County), and J. L. G. Howkins (City).

SOUTHGATE "IN FAVOUR"

Southgate N.A.L.G.O. gets a whole column to itself in the *Southgate Gazette* for March 10, on the occasion of the annual supper and dance. "... They (local government officers) suffer the occasional thrusts of the disgruntled among ratepayers, are invariably considered as folk favoured with 'cushy' jobs... Like civil servants, municipal officers experience the jeers of the ignorant, but they carry on unperturbed, putting the stamp of efficiency on work which, in Southgate, is particularly well done. I happen to know," says the writer, presumably the local reporter.

STOCKPORT SUPPER

"We often boast of our wonderful national civil service, but equally wonderful is the local government service," said the Mayor of Stockport, Councillor G. Gill, at the Stockport Branch's annual supper at the Brookfield Hotel, on February 10. Mr. R. Willacy, the president, presided, supported by the Mayor and members of the Corporation, Mr. F. J. Willett of Salford (chairman of the N.E.C. of N.A.L.G.O.), and Mr. J. W. Wilkinson, Deputy Town Clerk of Southport and chairman of the North-Western District of N.A.L.G.O.

Mr. F. J. Willett referred, in responding, to the recent developments of the Association.

SPRING IS HERE

The worries of winter illness are nearly over. Only the doctors' bills remain to be paid. The wise man does not allow this to be a drain on his resources. He places this burden on other shoulders.

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BRANCH AND DISTRICT NEWS

GENERAL SECRETARY AT SUTTON COLDFIELD

Mr. R. A. Reay-Nadin, Town Clerk, presided over a representative meeting at the Town Hall on March 13, when it was decided to form a branch. Mr. L. Hill, General Secretary, addressed the meeting on the activities of the Association, and referred to the eminent service Mr. Reay-Nadin gave to N.A.L.G.O. in its early days. A committee was appointed to draft rules and to arrange for the formal constitution of the Branch.

SUCCESSFUL FUNCTION AT TAUNTON

Some 130 members and guests assembled at the dinner, in connection with the Taunton, Yeovil and Bridgwater sub-branch. The function, a highly successful one, was the first of its kind to be held in Taunton. Mr. P. O. Cowlshaw (Clerk to the Taunton Guardians Committee and Chairman of the Branch) presided, and in the course of his speech mentioned that the gathering was one of the results of a big organisation scheme adopted by the County Branch about twelve months ago. It was decided to divide the county into three sub-branches, thus providing facilities for officers in outlying districts. A gathering such as that enabled the cloak of officialism to be laid on one side and all to meet on equal and friendly terms, so that they were bound to get to know and understand each other better.

Colonel Stead (County Surveyor), said he was prepared to do everything he possibly could to help the local government officers of the county.

ECONOMISTS "SPENT"

The opinion that local authorities and government leaders are coming to the conclusion that economy schemes had gone too far, and that the depression of the past eighteen months was lifting, was expressed with confidence at the recent dinner of the National Association of Local Government Officers (Tynemouth Branch). Sunderland Council, Mr. R. E. Heron told the gathering, met to consider the question of further reductions, but instead, proposed to call a Whitley Conference to deal with the question of salaries.

Mr. S. Oldroyd, secretary to the Tynemouth Education Committee, compared the Association's small beginnings in 1906 with the present membership of 66,000 and spoke of its value to local authorities and government departments.

WOOLWICH BRANCH

Sir Arthur Bryceson, president of the Branch, who recently retired from the Town Clerkship of Woolwich, presided at the annual dinner and dance of the Woolwich Branch, altogether a successful function. Guests included the Mayor and Mayoress (Councillor H. Harvey and Mrs. Harvey), and Councillor W. Barefoot, J.P., and Mrs. Barefoot.

SCARBOROUGH'S ANNUAL FUNCTION

The Scarborough annual dinner has become an exceedingly popular function, and this year the attendance broke previous records. The Town Clerk, Mr. Sydney Jones, presided, and was supported by His Worship the Mayor (Councillor C. K. G. Pindar, J.P.), and Councillor F. C. Whittaker, chairman of the Finance Committee, who both responded to the toast of "The Mayor and Corporation." Mr. Hill, the General Secretary of the Association, and Mr. J. B. Swinden, Divisional Secretary, responded to a toast on behalf of the Association. Mr. H. W. Smith, the Borough Engineer, and Sir Paul Latham, Bart., M.P., were the other speakers.

SCUNTHORPE OFFICIAL

After ten years as hon. secretary of the Scunthorpe Branch, Mr. H. S. Stalker has relinquished office, but will continue to take an active interest in the work. His colleagues are obliged to Mr. Stalker for his co-operation during this period.

UTTOXETER BRANCH FORMED

A well-attended meeting of officers of the Urban and Rural District Councils was held at the Town Hall, Uttoxeter, on February 21, when, after an address on N.A.L.G.O.'s activities by Mr. J. E. N. Davis, Divisional Secretary, it was decided to form a branch, with Mr. C. E. Ingham, Surveyor to the Rural District Council, as President, Mr. B. Snart, of the Urban District Council, as Hon. Secretary, and Mr. H. C. Bennett, of the Rural District Council, as Hon. Treasurer.

WALSALL

At the third annual dinner of the Walsall Branch, held at the Baths Assembly Hall on March 2, with Mr. V. J. Moore, M.C., M.A., Director of Education, in the chair, a letter was read from the Borough Member, Alderman J. A. Leckie, M.P., who acknowledged that the Association had been most helpful in the recent negotiations between the Council and the officials.

Alderman Ingram, proposing the toast "N.A.L.G.O.," said "At no time in the history of this country has the administration of local government been at a higher standard, and your Association is to be congratulated on its efforts to ensure that your members know their jobs, and that there are the right sort of people available to tackle the problems which have to be dealt with." He never felt that the members of N.A.L.G.O. were just out for the last penny in wages. During the last six months it had been proved to him that they had a soul beyond that, and he was bound to say that no body of ratepayers in the country could have been treated with greater consideration, than the ratepayers of Walsall. If they knew of the conferences which had taken place behind the scenes on the vexed question of remuneration and the spirit which had been displayed, some of them would have a higher opinion of bureaucracy.

RETIREMENT

The recent retirement of Mr. J. Heath, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector of the Urmston U.D.C., was marked by the presentation of a mahogany bureau and an illuminated address at a gathering of the staff and council on Tuesday, February 28. Mr. Heath had served the council for thirty-four years, and the address bore eloquent testimony to the high regard in which he was held by the council, and by his colleagues.

WHY NOT BRANCH DEBATES?

A debate was recently held by the Bromley Branch to discuss a motion that "The endangering of human life in the breaking of records was not justified." A thoroughly interesting discussion resulted in the defeat of the motion by a narrow majority.

This idea of holding debates is commended to branches. They will give members an opportunity of developing the art of making public speeches, but more, they will provide a good training-ground for the officer whose duty it is to express himself, clearly and concisely, to his Council. By the creation of wider interests and broader conceptions of subjects normally outside the details of daily routine, they would be valuable propaganda which is all to the good.

The subjects of debates are limitless, especially in connection with local government. The field which this covers is very wide, it is always topical and instructive to officers and to the public, and would greatly assist the Association in its efforts to make the value of local government known and appreciated. Any information including suggested titles which may be required by those branches which desire to arrange debates will be readily supplied by the General Secretary, N.A.L.G.O., 24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.



By WALTER P. WRIGHT

Author of "Roses and Rose Gardens," "Alpine Plants and Rock Gardens," "Hardy Perennials and Herbaceous Borders," "Garden Trees and Shrubs," etc.

IN my February notes I tried to outline some operations which, if properly carried out, give the gardening year a good start, and readers who have not yet made any plans should refer to those comments, so that we can all begin together, as it were. Taking Roses first, pruning the dwarf Hybrid Perpetuals (if any are still grown) and Hybrid Teas may begin about the middle of March in mild districts, but should be deferred another two or three weeks in places subject to late frosts and bitter winds. In all cases Tea Roses should be left till April. With most varieties I would prune hard, that is, to within three or four buds of the old wood, dealing lightly only with the very weak and the very strong. Dwarf Polyanthas may be pruned as early as any Roses, and the degree of severity may almost be a matter of taste, for they do well anyhow if the soil is good and pests are kept under. Personally, I favour light pruning for this class, and rarely do more than thin.

* * *

Autumn-sown Sweet Peas have rooted well, and such as have been hardened by exposure during favourable spells throughout the winter may go out towards the end of this month or early next. Deep tillage and liberal manuring are taken for granted. I would not condemn single-stem culture for those who fancy it, even if there is to be no exhibiting; but the obligations should be weighed. Tall bamboo stakes 1 ft. apart in lines need to be well braced in windy places, and I would not trust them without supports; indeed, I would have stout end posts, connected by top and bottom horizontal bars to which the bamboos could be secured. If the frame is a lofty one of 8-10 ft., an intermediate bar or wire would help to maintain rigidity. Of course, such supports are much more expensive than sticks, and the stopping and tying take more time than stick plants need; but many people don't mind that. Seed may still be sown in pots, "raisers" or boxes with gaining of time if glass is available, but the earlier in the month the better, as after March one may as well sow outdoors and rest content with later bloom.

* * *

I hope my readers will bear in mind

that with a supply of 3- to 5-lb. stones available, charming rock beds can be made on the outskirts of small lawns and other selected places. Beds only 8-10 ft. long by 5-6 ft. wide, the topmost stones not more than a yard above ground level, can be delightful when planted with such dainty gems as Androsaces, Aubrietias, Alpine Pinks (Dianthus), Gentians, Iberis (perennial Candytuft), Lithospermums, mountain Phloxes, Primulas, Saxifrages, Sedums, Sempervivums, Silenes, Violas and other dwarf plants. Local builders can often supply such stones.

* * *

Border Carnations ought to be got in as soon as possible. A gritty condition of soil is desirable. A light dressing of artificial manure, say 1 oz. each of sulphate of potash and superphosphate per square yard, will do more good than dung. Hop manure is also preferable. If plants are being grown, or bought, in pots, I suggest turning them out and planting with the ball of soil and roots unbroken, taking care not to bury the "collar" or neck of the plant deeply.

* * *

Popular Lilies such as auratum, chalconicum, Martagon, regale, tigrinum and umbellatum may go in this month. If they are being planted in a mixed border, choose spots where they will be more or less shaded from fierce sun heat during the hottest part of the day by other more bulky plants. The soil can hardly be made too friable, nor can a mistake be made by adding loam and leafmould, or by providing a base of sand for the bulbs. There is no gain-saying that Lilies need a little more care than most other border plants, and well do they deserve it.

I hope readers are laying themselves out for a brilliant display of Antirrhinums, and if they have an autumn-raised stock of seedling or cutting stuff which has been grown cool with abundance of air throughout the winter, I would encourage them to plant this month so as to get early and continuous bloom. Give the soil a good liming. Winter seedlings raised in heat are hardly likely to be fit for planting out before April or even May, as they cannot possibly be so hardy as the former.

BOOK REVIEWS

(Continued from page 96)

to the section on Highways Transport and Electricity.

The Editor deserves the highest commendation, not only for the numerous improvements which he has effected on previous editions of this work, but also for the extraordinarily able manner in which he has assembled facts and figures relating to the increasing diverse subjects which come within the ambit of Local Administration.

The *Municipal Year Book* is not only a work of reference; it contains an extremely interesting exposition of the powers and functions of local authorities and of the progress made by them in their various spheres of administrative work.

The one sad note in the edition is the obituary notice of the late Sir Robert Donald, the founder of the *Municipal Year Book*, whose sudden death on February 17 this year was a great loss to the Local Government world.

C. K. W.

WHERE TO STAY

(Continued from cover iii)

TORQUAY.—Dartmeet Private Hotel, Belgrave Road. Central for all amusements, sea-front and tennis courts. Hot and cold water and electric fires all bedrooms. Entirely redecorated and newly furnished. Special terms to Nalgoites. Tariff and list of Torquay's attractions on application. Proprietor a Nalgoite.

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MOVEMENTS OF MEMBERS

Mr. J. W. Bromley, A.S.A.A., A.I.M.T.A., and not Mr. N. F. Browning, Portslade, as recorded in our last issue, is Rating and Valuation Officer at Castleford.

Caple, Miss, West Riding County Officers' Branch, to Assistant Librarian, under the Hoyalake (Cheshire) Council.

Foreshaw, R. C., Hastings, to Folkestone as Draughtsman.

Howson, Mr. and Mrs. J., West Riding County Officers' Branch, to Master and Matron under the Gloucester Council.

Hull, H. G., Folkestone, to Malden and Coombe U.D.C. as Clerk in Surveyor's Dept.

Hurst, A. N., Weymouth and Portland, to Cambridge C.C. as Accounts Clerk.

James, R., Middlesbrough, to Assistant Sanitary Inspector, under the Workington Council.

Marks, G. W., Bristol, to Canterbury as Town Clerk.

McDougall, D., who has served the West Ham Corporation for 40 years, and has been Librarian at the Plaistow Library for 30 years, has been appointed Chief Librarian to the West Ham County Borough Council, as from March 1 last. Mr. McDougall has been an active member of N.A.L.G.O. for many years, and his promotion has given general satisfaction to his colleagues.

Newman, W. A., Hackney, to Assist. Baths Superintendent, Paddington.

Robinson, E., Yorkshire District Branch, to Sanitary Inspector under the Houghton-le-Spring R.D.C.

Wanklyn, R. H., Canterbury, to Ealing Borough as Town Clerk.

Wilson, Miss V. M., Erith, to Matron, Infectious Diseases Hospital, Walthamstow.

Wimble, H. P., Lewes and District, to Woolwich Borough as Assistant Surveyor.

NALGO APPROVED SOCIETY

The Nalگو Approved Society has from time to time received letters from local government officers asking for advice regarding Health Insurance matters, and the advisability of transferring to the Society.

Most officers hesitate when they learn that there is a three years' waiting period, before becoming entitled to Additional Benefits in the new Society. It should, however, be noted that members transferring at July 3, 1933, will become entitled to the additional non-cash benefits given by the new Society from January, 1936 (a waiting period of only two and a half years).

To ensure receiving the old Society's consent to transfer at July, and to give the necessary eight weeks notice of transfer in accordance with the Ministry of Health regulations, application forms for membership should be received by the Nalگو Approved Society not later than May 3 next.

LOGOMIA

The Board of Management of Logomia reported at a meeting of the National Executive that, at the request of the N.A.L.G.O. Building Society Committee of Management, it had formulated a scheme for guaranteeing advances on mortgage of house property made to members in excess of 50 per cent of the value of the property in cases where advances up to 100 per cent of the value were made. There had, the Council was informed, been a considerable increase in the number of proposals received, in both the Life and Fire Departments, during the period January 1 to February 28, as compared with those received for the corresponding period of 1932. The report, as submitted, was adopted.

HULL PUBLICATION

The Handbook issued to its members by the Hull and District Branch is a very neat and useful publication, easily carried in a waistcoat pocket. It contains much useful information regarding the Association, nationally and locally, a list of members of the Branch and is used also as a certificate of membership.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES

NORTH-WESTERN AND NORTH WALES

Sir George Etherton, Clerk to the County Council, addressing delegates at a meeting of the North-Western and North Wales District Committee on Saturday, March 11, at the County Offices, Preston, said that among the many aims and objects of the Association, the one group which commended it to him as being of prime and fundamental importance was the facilities which were offered for the education of younger local government officers through the medium of the Correspondence Institute. "By this means you are coaching and training those who are aspirants for the professional, technical, and administrative branches of the local government service and your work is of tremendous importance." The arrangement for intensive courses at the Summer Schools at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge could but conduce to the betterment of the officers who had the inclination to take advantage of the facilities. Sir George went on to say that he could not but admire the temperate and well-balanced way in which the views of the Association had from time to time been advanced, for example, to the Departmental Committee on Recruitment.

Resolutions of the General Purposes Committee in regard to the Draft Scale of Salaries and Conditions of Service were approved with minor additions. A motion by the Stockport Branch relating to the B. & O. Fund rules, which would have the effect of adding two members to Regional B. & O. Committees was carried. The subject of Superannuation and Widows' Pensions was after consideration referred to the National Executive Council.

SOUTH WALES DISTRICT

Mr. Godfrey Turner of Swansea presided over a representative meeting of the District Committee at the Memorial Hall, Gladstone Gardens, Barry, on March 11. The delegates received a cordial welcome from Councillor W. T. Ace, the Chairman of the Urban District Council, who was accompanied by Mr. T. D. Howells, Clerk of the Council. Mr. Ace said he was pleased to learn that 80 per cent. of the Barry officials were members of the Association. If he had any influence, it would be 100 per cent., for he knew the value of organisation. His Council had just established a joint staff advisory committee to govern salaries and conditions of service. He believed it was a desirable step. "It is far better to talk something out by the application of common sense and logical argument than to fight it out."

The Executive Committee reported as to the circularisation of branches regarding the setting up of Joint Advisory Committees, University Diplomas, and Sports and Recreation. As to the last-named, the Porthcawl Branch submitted a proposal for a knock-out cricket competition for 1933, which was approved. Other matters considered were a report by Mr. G. Llewellyn on the last meeting of the National Executive Council, and one by the Divisional Secretary in regard to temporary salary reductions throughout the area.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held at Cardiff on April 8.

BRANCH PUBLICATIONS

A number of branches issue periodically local publications for circulation to their members and interested friends. The suggestion has been made by Mr. F. W. Foulger, Secretary of the Greenwich Branch, that such publications might be forwarded to all Branches issuing similar local news sheets, by which means the branches concerned would have the advantage of learning of the activities of other branches and be able to benefit by new ideas, etc.

Mr. Foulger, whose address is the Borough Hall, S.E.10, would appreciate copies of local publications, and will be pleased to reciprocate by forwarding each month the publication issued by the Greenwich Branch.

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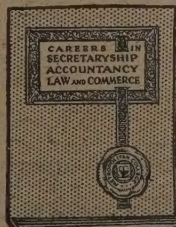
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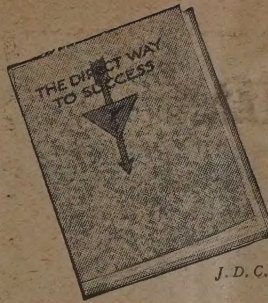
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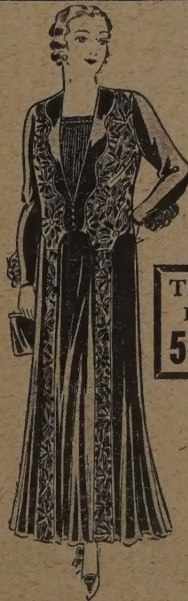
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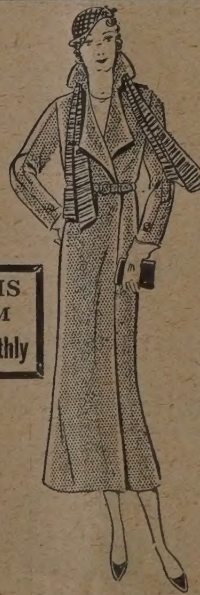
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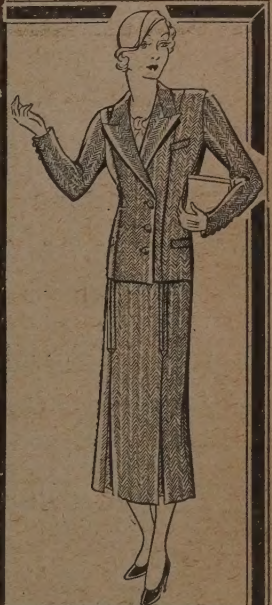
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